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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

EDITED BY

PERCY R. LOWE.

VOLUME XLV.

SESSION 1924–1925.

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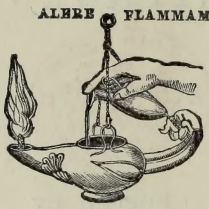

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PREFACE.

The total number of attendances at the meetings of the Club during the past Session was 351 members and 83 guests, a total of 434. This compares favourably with recent Sessions.

In the preface to the 1923–24 volume of the 'Bulletin' we called attention to what appeared to be a tendency to a diminution in the number of new forms described, expressing at the same time a hope that this indicated an approach to something nearing finality in the discovery and naming of subspecies, and that it was not merely correlated with a temporary diminution of activity in collecting. In that Session 55 subspecies had been described in the 'Bulletin,' as compared with 136 in the previous volume. In the Session just completed 54 have been described. For these Mr. N. B. Kinnear, Mr. J. Delacour, and Mr. Stuart Baker have been chiefly responsible, Mr. Kinnear's work being concerned with a Tonkin collection made by Mr. H. Stevens on behalf of the Godman-Salvin and Percy Sladen Trust, Mr. Delacour's with the birds collected on his recent Indo-China Expedition, and Mr. Stuart Baker's with his researches connected with his book on the 'Birds of India.' Capt. H. S. Stoneham has also described new birds from Central Africa.

Apart from this, the Session was marked by Major Cheesman's very interesting account of his Arabian expedition to the Great South Desert; by an address given by Prof. P. P. Suskhin on his proposed classification of the Fringillidæ; by the exhibition by Mr. H. Witherby of the eggs of the Common Snipe taken in Portugal and sent to him by Mr. Geoffrey Tait; and the exhibition by Prince Taka-Tsukasa of *Pseudotadorna cristata* Kuroda.

(Signed) PERCY R. LOWE,
Editor.

London, July 1925.

RULES

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(*As amended, October 8th,* 1924.)

I. This Club was founded for the purpose of facilitating the social intercourse of Members of the British Ornithologists' Union. Any Member of that Union can become a Member of this Club on payment (to the Treasurer) of an entrance fee of *One Pound* and a subscription of *One Guinea* for the current Session. Resignation of the Union involves resignation of the Club.

II. Members who have not paid their subscriptions before the last Meeting of the Session, shall cease, *ipso facto,* to be Members of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears.

III. Ordinary Members of the British Ornithologists' Union may be introduced as Visitors at the Meetings of the Club, but every Member of the Club who introduces a Member of the B. O. U. as a Visitor (to the dinner or to the Meeting afterwards) shall pay *One Shilling* to the Treasurer *on each occasion.*

IV. No gentleman shall be allowed to attend the Meetings of the Club as a guest on more than three occasions during any single Session ; and no former Member who has been removed for non-payment of subscription or any other cause shall be allowed to attend as a guest. Ladies are not admitted as guests.

V. The Club shall meet, as a rule, on the Second Wednesday in every Month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee. But should such Wednesday happen to be Ash Wednesday, the Meeting will take place on the Wednesday following. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects shall be read, specimens exhibited, and discussion invited.

VI. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the B. O. C. shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and distributed gratis to every Member *who has paid his subscription.* Copies of this Bulletin shall be published and sold at *Two Shillings* each to Members.

Descriptions of new species may be added to the last page of the 'Bulletin,' although such were not communicated at the Meeting of the Club. This shall be done at the discretion of the Editor and so long as the publication of the 'Bulletin' is not unduly delayed thereby.

Any person speaking at a Meeting of the Club shall be allowed subsequently to amplify his remarks in the 'Bulletin'; but no fresh matter shall be incorporated with such remarks.

VII. The affairs of this Club shall be managed by a Committee, to consist of the Chairman, who shall be elected for three years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term, the Editor of the 'Bulletin,' who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term, the Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected for a term of one year, but shall be eligible for re-election, with four other Members, the senior of whom shall retire each year; every third year the two senior Members shall retire and two others be elected in their place. Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the Members of the Club at a General Meeting, and the names of such Officers and Members of Committee, nominated for the ensuing year, shall be circulated with the preliminary notice convening the General Meeting at least two weeks before the Meeting. Should any Member wish to propose another candidate, the nomination of such, signed by at least two Members, must reach the Secretary at least one clear week before the Annual General Meeting.

Amendments to the Standing Rules of the Club, as well as very important or urgent matters, shall be submitted to Members, to be voted upon at a General Meeting.

VIII. A General Meeting of the B. O. C. shall be held on the day of the October Meeting of each Session, and the Treasurer shall present thereat the Balance-sheet and Report; and the election of Officers and Committee, in so far as their election is required, shall be held at such Meeting.

IX. Any Member desiring to make a complaint of the manner in which the affairs of the Club are conducted must communicate in writing with the Chairman, who will call a Committee Meeting to deal with the matter.

COMMITTEE 1924–1925.

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* Elected 1924.
Dr. P. R. Lowe, *Editor of the 'Bulletin.'* Elected 1920.
Dr. G. C. Low, *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.* Elected 1923.
D. A. Bannerman. Elected 1922.
H. M. Wallis. Elected 1923.
C. B. Ticehurst. Elected 1924.
C. Oldham. Elected 1924.

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W. L. Sclater.	1918–1924.
H. F. Witherby.	1924–

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Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1920–

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D. A. Bannerman.	1918–1919.
Dr. Philip Gosse.	1919–1920.
J. L. Bonhote.	1920–1922
C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1922–1923
Dr. G. C. Low.	1923–

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190 Worms, Charles de; Milton Park, Egham, Surrey.
191 Wynne, R. O.; Foulis Court, Fair Oak, Hants.

New Members for the Session .. 14
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NOTICE.

[Members are specially requested to keep the Hon. Secretary informed of any changes in their addresses, and Members residing abroad should give early notification of coming home on leave.]

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25 NOV 1924

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCXC.

The two-hundred-and-eighty-sixth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, October 8th, 1924.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—W. Shore Baily; E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; H. B. Booth; C. D. Borrer; G. Brown; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; R. E. Cheesman; Capt. H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; Major-Gen. Sir Percy Cox; Col. A. Delmé-Ratcliffe; Major S. S. Flower; The Hon. Masauji Hachisuka; Dr. E. Hartert; Dr. E. Hopkinson; L. M. Jopling; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; G. C. Lambert; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); J. H. McNeile; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; G. Mannering; Dr. P. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo; Col. & Mrs. Meinertzhagen; H. Munt; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; C. E. Pearson; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; D. Seth-Smith; Major A. G. L. Sladen; H. Kirke Swann; W. H. Thorpe; G. de H.

Vaizey ; H. W. Waite ; H. M. Wallis ; H. Whistler ; W. J. F. Williamson ; J. Sladen Wing ; W. H. Workman ; C. de Worms.

Guests :—Prince Taka-Tsukasa ; Capt. D. Abel Smith ; Capt. H. S. Stokes ; Professor P. P. Sushkin.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This was held at Pagani's Resturant, Great Portland Street, immediately preceding the dinner.

Mr. W. L. Sclater in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last General Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Balance Sheet, which had already been printed and circulated, was laid before the Meeting. This was duly passed. Major Sladen proposed a vote of thanks to the Treasurer for the very satisfactory nature of the balance at the Bank, and said that the finances of the Club now seemed to be on a sound basis.

Mr. H. F. Witherby, recommended by the Committee for the post of Chairman, in place of Mr. W. L. Sclater whose time of office had expired, was unanimously elected.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst and Mr. Charles Oldham were elected members of the Committee in place of Major Sladen and Colonel Stephenson R. Clarke, who retired this year through seniority.

A proposal from the Committee that the tenure of the Chairmanship should be reduced from five to three years was, after some discussion, agreed to. The Secretary was instructed to change the Rules to this effect.

The Chairman mentioned that the Committee had discussed a letter received by the Hon. Secretary from the Rev. J. R. Hale as to the possibility of acquiring a room where Members could meet each other and consult current literature. A discussion, in which several Members took part, arose as to the desirability of such a step. Finally, Major Sladen proposed, and Mr. Kinnear seconded, that the Hon. Sec.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

Financial Statement for period to August 31st, 1924.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance at Bank—brought forward		92 16 0	By Publications and Bulletin Distribution		112 6 3
,, Entrance Fees by New Subscribers..	18 0 0		,, Petty Cash, Postage, and Miscellaneous Expenses		5 4 11
,, Subscriptions—187 Members	196 7 0		,, Hire of Lantern for Annual Dinner with B.O.U.		4 3 0
		214 7 0	,, Zoological Society Record		11 5 0
,, Sales of Bulletin		40 11 11	,, Cash at Lloyds Bank	212 14 9	
			,, ,, in hands of Treasurer	1 0 0	
					213 14 9
			,, Refund of Excess Subscription		1 1 0
		£347 14 11			£347 14 11

I have compared the foregoing statement with the books, receipts, and vouchers of the British Ornithologists' Club for the period to September, 1924, and hereby certify same to be in accordance therewith.

36 Camomile Street,
London, E.C. 3.

FREDK. H. EBSWORTH,
Chartered Accountant.

should be empowered to make enquiries as to the possibility of obtaining such a room, the price of same, and other details, and that, if necessary, a Special General Meeting of the Club should be called to discuss the matter. This was agreed to.

Mr. G. M. Mathews proposed and Dr. P. R. Lowe seconded a very hearty vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman, Mr. W. L. Sclater, for the able manner in which he had filled the post and for the keen interest he had always shown in the affairs of the Club. This was carried with acclamation.

The Meeting then adjourned to Dinner.

Committee, 1924–25.

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman* (elected 1924).
P. R. Lowe, *Editor* (elected 1920).
G. C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treasurer* (elected 1923).
D. A. Bannerman (elected 1922).
H. M. Wallis (elected 1923).
C. B. Ticehurst (elected 1924).
C. Oldham (elected 1924).

Proceedings at the Meeting following the Dinner.

The Chairman gave a *résumé* of the proceedings of the General Meeting, and expressed his appreciation of the honour which had been done him in electing him to the Chair.

The Chairman made sympathetic reference to Mr. C. Chubb, whose death had already been announced in the 'Bulletin,' and to Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, who died on July 26. He stated that, although Mr. Ogilvie-Grant had retired from active ornithology, owing to his illness, since 1916, he was well remembered by many of the members, who greatly deplored his death. He was an original member of the Club, joining at its inception in 1892 and retiring from it in 1918, and contributed largely to its proceedings, making many interesting communications and exhibitions. He succeeded Dr. Bowdler Sharpe as editor of the 'Bulletin' in 1904 and acted in that capacity for ten years.

Mr. Witherby exhibited a Spotted Flycatcher which he had received in exchange from Mr. G. L. Bates, who had collected it at Bitye, West Africa, on April 23, 1921. This bird exhibited all the characteristics of *Muscicapa striata balearica*, which was the breeding bird of the Balearic Islands, and had been described by Dr. von Jordans in 'Falco,' 1913, p. 43. Mr. Witherby exhibited a specimen from Mallorca for comparison. It was quite a good form, with the stripes on the forehead whiter, the upper parts paler, and the streaks on the breast finer and sparser than in the typical form. So far as he knew, the bird had not previously been recorded outside its breeding territory, but he had found a specimen in the British Museum also collected by Mr. Bates on the River Ja on October 28, 1907, which appeared to belong to this form.

Mr. W. L. Sclater made the following remarks upon the Redwing-Starling, *Onychognathus morio* :—

The Redwing-Starling has a wide distribution in Africa from Nigeria and Abyssinia to the Cape. In the forest country of Western Africa it is replaced by *O. fulgidus* and in the dry country of South-west Africa by *O. nabouroup*, but these are better regarded as distinct species.

An examination of the large series of *O. morio* leads me to consider that it may be divided into the following races :—

O. m. morio [*Turdus morio* Linnæus, Syst. Nat. 12th ed. i. p. 297, 1766 : Cape of Good Hope].

Wing of male averaging 140 mm.; tail 135 ; bill slender, about 29 mm. from base of culmen to tip.

Range. Africa south of the Zambesi, except the S.W. African Protectorate and Little Namaqualand.

O. m. shelleyi [*Amydrus shelleyi* Hartert, Cat. Vogelsamm. Mus. Senck. p. 75, 1891 : Ugogo].

Wing of male averaging 155 mm. ; tail 150 ; bill distinctly stouter, but hardly longer.

Range. Kenya Colony, Tanganyika Territory and Nyasaland.

O. M. RUEPPELLI [*Amydrus rueppelli* Verreaux in Chenu, Encycl. Méth. v. p. 166, 1856 : Abyssinia].

Wing of male averaging 160 mm. ; tail 160–170 ; bill longer, about 31.

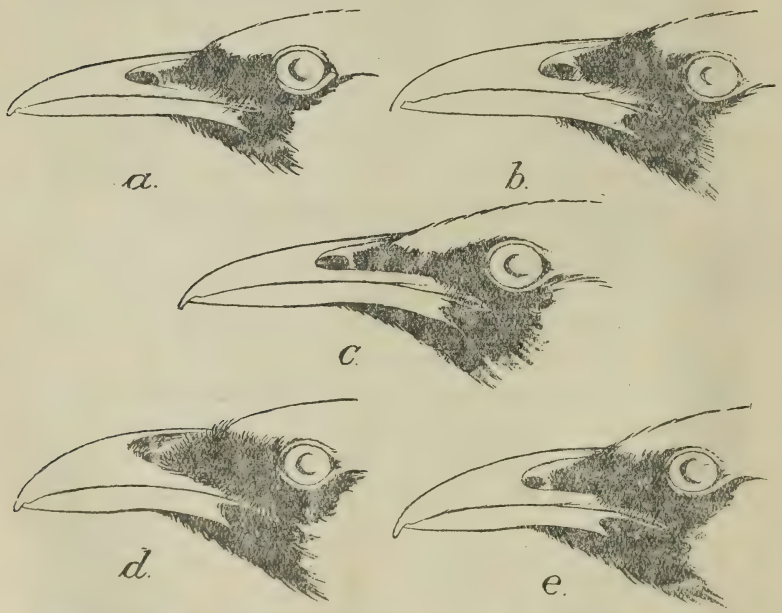
Range. Confined to Highlands of Abyssinia, ranging east to the Ogaden country.

O. M. NEUMANNI [*Amydrus neumanni* Alexander, Bull. B. O. C. xxiii. p. 41, 1908 : Petti, N. Nigeria].

Wing 155 mm. ; tail 155 ; bill short, stout, and very deep ; with a rounded and ridged culmen, about 30 mm.

Range. Northern Nigeria and the Banso Mts. in N. Cameroon east through Darfur to the Nile Valley, where the birds are intermediate between this and *O. m. shelleyi.*

O. M. MONTANUS [*Amydrus montanus* van Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xl. p. 52, 1919 : Mt. Elgon, at 9000 ft.].



Bills of : (*a*) *O. m. morio,* Durban ; (*b*) *O. m. shelleyi,* Ugogo ; (*c*) *O. m. montanus,* Mt. Elgon ; (*d*) *O. m. neumanni,* N. Nigeria ; (*e*) *O. m. rueppelli,* Abyssinia. All approximately natural size.

Wing 160 mm. ; tail 154 ; bill long and very slender, quite different in shape to that of the other races, about 34 mm.

Range. Confined, so far as is known, to the higher elevations of Mt. Elgon at 9000 and 10,000 ft. Of this curiously isolated race I have only seen the type in the Tring Museum. Examples from the base of Mt. Elgon, obtained by Kemp and now in the British Museum, must be referred to *O. m. shelleyi*.

In order to illustrate the remarkable variation in the bills of the various races, I have had the sketches made by Mr. Grönvold, which show this more closely than any description.

Lord Rothschild and Dr. Ernst Hartert described a new species of Lory and Honey-Eater from New Ireland, from whence the Tring Museum has received a collection made by Albert F. Eichhorn, as follows :—

Domicella albidinucha, sp. nov.

Male and female ad. Entire crown to eyes glossy black, behind the black crown a triangular whitish patch, the feathers being creamy white at the tip, brownish yellow in the middle, and greyish black at the utmost base. Back, rump, tail-coverts, sides of head and neck, and entire underside scarlet-red, middle of the back darker, more crimson, feathers of the jugulum yellow at base. Scapulars, upper wing-coverts, and outer webs of wing-quills grass-green, inner webs of the latter black with a large bright yellow patch in the middle, occupying about one-half to two-thirds of the web. Rectrices dark green, nearly the basal half dark red, but utmost base again dark green ; under aspect of tail yellowish. Bend of wing light violet-blue, tips of the feathers lavender. Under wing-coverts red, longest series black. Bill "yellowish red," sometimes "bright red," utmost base of upper mandible and surroundings of nostrils black. Feet black. Iris "brownish red, brownish yellow, reddish yellow, dull yellow." Wings, ♂ 156–162, ♀ 152–156 mm.

Hab. Hills on S.W. coast of New Ireland.

Type. ♂ ad. 16.xi.1923. Albert F. Eichhorn coll. No. 8777.

This striking new species appears to stand quite by itself. Its nearest in appearance is *Domicella hypoinochroa*, which, in the form *Domicella hypoinochroa devittata* Hart. is a common bird in New Ireland. It differs, however, in many points, especially in the following :—It is considerably larger ; the base of the upper mandible is red like the rest of the bill, not black ; the feathers on the sides of the neck are stiffened and streaky in appearance ; the belly, thighs, and under tail-coverts are purplish black, not uniform with the breast ; there are no yellow bases to the feathers of the jugulum ; the bend of the wing is deep bluish green, not light blue and lavender ; in the middle of the back is a darker saddle ; the tail is greenish or bluish black, not grass-green.

Philemon eichhorni, sp. nov.

Male ad. Upperside sepia-brown, crown less dark, just behind the crown a white ring, caused by white tips to the feathers. Tips of rectrices white, wider on the inner webs and on the outer feathers (on the inner web 12 to 20 mm.), narrower on the central pairs (5 to 7 mm.). Wings like tail and back. Underside a little lighter brown, each feather, except on the uniform lower abdomen, with a greyish-white edge, producing a more or less scaly appearance. Under wing-coverts widely edged with white, inner webs of inner quills with white edges on basal half. Under tail-coverts widely edged with white all round. "Bill black. Iris dark brown. Feet slaty blue." Wings 147–150 mm. ; tail 126–132 ; culmen 23–46.

♀ *ad.* Like male, but much smaller, wings 135–139 mm.

Hab. Hills on S.W. coast of New Ireland.

Type. ♂ *ad.* 22.i.1924. Albert F. Eichhorn coll. No. 8981.

This species seems to have no near ally. It differs widely from *Phil. novæ-guineæ cockerelli* of New Britain in being smaller, having a white nuchal collar, white tips to the rectrices and feathers of the underside. Named after its collector.

Lord Rothschild also exhibited a specimen of the rare and large *Centropus violaceus* from New Ireland, which in size surpassed the other two large species, *Centropus goliath* and *C. milo*. It apparently has not hitherto been recorded from New Ireland proper.

Lord Rothschild further exhibited a peculiar variety of the Moorhen, popularly known as the "Hairy Moorhen," and called attention to the fact that in this variety abnormal coloration was always connected with the aberrant disintegrated structure of the feathers.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear made the following remarks on Indian Birds :—

In the 2nd edition of the 'Fauna of British India' the Burmese Red-capped Babbler is called *Timalia pileata jerdoni* Walden, A. M. N. H. (4) x. p. 61, July 1872, and the type-locality is said to be Pegu. This, however, is a mistake, as Lord Walden's bird came from the Khasia Hills, and the name is therefore a pure synonym of *T. p. bengalensis* Godwin-Austen, J. A. S. B. xli. 2, p. 143, June 1872, also from the same locality. I therefore propose to call the Burmese bird

Timalia pileata intermedia,

and designate as type a male from Tonghoo, collected by R. G. Wardlaw Ramsay, 19th December, 1874, Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 88. 4. 20. 938.

In the 1st and 2nd editions of the 'Fauna of British India' the Scaly-breasted Wren of the Himalayas is called *Pnoepyga squamata* Gould, Icones Avium, part i., Aug. 1837, but this is antedated by *P. albiventer* Hodgson, Journ. Asiatic Soc. Bengal, Feb. 1837.

Both the authors of these editions state that in the male the underside is white, while in the female it is bright fulvous. These differences are not, however, sexual, as I have examined two white-breasted females from Sikkim and one from Kulu, as well as five adult and immature males with fulvous breasts from the Punjab Himalayas, while two

females, one from Dharmsala and another from Mt. Victoria, Chin Hills, are intermediate and have white throats and pale fulvous breasts. It would appear therefore, as was suggested to me by Mr. H. Whistler, that this bird is dimorphic.

In addition to skins to illustrate the above remarks, two young specimens in the brown juvenile plumage are shown, in which the feathers of the adult are appearing on the breast, in the one white and the other fulvous.

Specimens of this bird from the western Himalayas can be distinguished from Eastern birds. Hodgson's type came from Nepal, and Gould's *P. squamata*, the type of which is in the British Museum, is also the eastern form, so that a new name will be required for the western bird, and I propose

Pnoepyga albiventer pallidior, nom. nov.

Differs from the typical bird in the colour of the upper surface, which is dark olive instead of dark umber in both forms, and by the paler colouring below in the rufous form.

Type in the British Museum, ♂ Dharmsala, Punjab, 4000 ft., 1st Dec., 1921. H. Whistler Coll., Reg. No. 1924. 10. 9. 1.

Distribution. Garwhal to Dharmsala.

Obs. I have to thank Lord Rothschild and Messrs. H. Stevens and H. Whistler for the loan of specimens in working out this bird.

Mr. Kinnear further described three new races of birds obtained by Mr. H. Stevens in Tonkin, where he had been collecting through the aid of the Godman Fund for the British Museum :—

Schœniparus rufogularis stevensi.

Distinguished from *S. rufogularis rufogularis* principally by the colour of the underside, which instead of being pure white is washed with yellowish-olive. The collar across the throat is yellower and less rust-coloured, and not so sharply defined, while the superciliary line is washed with buff instead of pure white, the ear-coverts are darker and the throat white with a strong rusty tinge.

The white throat and breast and paler upperside distinguish this form from *S. r. major* Baker.

Type in the British Museum, ♂. Bao Ha, Tonkin, 22nd Oct., 1923. H. Stevens Coll., No. 1. Three specimens examined.

Thringorhina guttata diluta.

Similar to *T. g. guttata* Blyth from Tenasserim and Siam, but darker and wanting the rufous wash. The ear-coverts are grey instead of brownish-grey and the rusty-red of the underside is much paler and mixed with olive-brown, especially on the flanks and under tail-coverts. The white of the throat runs into the rusty-red of the upper breast and is not so sharply defined as in *T. guttata*.

Type in the British Museum, ♂. Thai Nien, Tonkin, 23rd Feb., 1924. H. Stevens Coll., No. 159. Eight specimens examined.

Range. Thai Nien and Bao Ha, Tonkin.

Drymocataphus tickelli olivaceus.

Closely allied to *D. t. tickelli* Blyth, from Amherst, Tenasserim, but more olive instead of olive-buff on the upperside and flanks, and paler on the under tail-coverts; also the under surface much less buff.

From *D. t. assamensis* Sharpe this form is distinguished by the olive colour and paler underside.

Type in the British Museum, ♂. Bao Ha, Tonkin, 31st Oct., 1923. H. Stevens Coll., No. 22. Five specimens examined.

Note.—A bird from Daban, S. Annam, collected by Kloss, is intermediate, but rather nearer this form than the typical.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear also exhibited two skins of a Ruby-throat, *Calliope davidi*, from the Chumbi Valley, Southern Thibet. These specimens were obtained by Major Hingston the medical officer to the Mt. Everest Expedition on 11th and 19th May of this year before entering Thibet proper. This little-known species was described by Oustalet from Ta-chien-lu, and it has been recorded from the Tsin-ling Mts., Szechuan, and N.W. Yunnan in July, August, and September.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain exhibited on behalf of Mr. G. Binney a series of 16 eggs of the Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*), taken in July and August 1924 in North-East Land, Spitzbergen. Owing to the inaccessibility of their breeding-haunts, the eggs have seldom been taken since Malmgren obtained the first two specimens at Murchison Bay in 1861. Most nests contained only a single egg.

Mr. Jourdain also called attention to a statement by Mr. Bunyard in the Bull. B. O. C., xliv. p. 99, that he had failed to trace any previous record of the Cirl Bunting as fosterer of the Cuckoo (in the British Isles). In a paper on "The Cuckoo's Foster Parents," published in Kirkman's British Bird Book, i. p. 400, reference will be found to two well-authenticated records of this fosterer by Mr. C. B. Wharton, details of which are given in the 'Zoologist,' 1882, p. 265.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard gave a *résumé* of the more important events observed while watching a Cuckoo deposit an egg in a Wagtail's nest, and said :—

The results of my interesting experience in witnessing a Cuckoo deposit her egg in the nest of a Pied Wagtail will shortly appear in popular form in a London publication.

I propose on this occasion to give only a brief *résumé* of the more important points brought to light on that occasion. On Tuesday, June 24th, 1924, I received a telephone message from Mr. Scholey to say that he had two female Cuckoos under observation in the now-famous chalk-quarry at Cliffe-at-Hoo, Kent (both of which Mr. Scholey was certain were birds of the previous year), and that he expected one of them to deposit her fourth egg in the previously located nest of the Pied Wagtail at about 5 p.m. on Thursday, the 26th.

The nest was situated in an oblong heap of flints (a characteristic site for this quarry), and contained two eggs. At 3.15 Mr. Scholey, Mr. H. Turner, the photographer, and I entered the hide, which had been placed in position the previous morning, exactly 12 feet from the Wagtail's nest. At 3.42 one of the Wagtails arrived, went on to the nest, and

came off again, at 3.43 she again went on and was not again seen.

At 4.5 the Cookoo arived at the left-hand end of the pile of flints and was now in full view to those in the hide. After remaining almost motionless for some considerable time, she walked or rather floundered about the flints endeavouring to locate the entrance to the nest. Hesitating and looking round to see that all was clear, she made repeated dives into the hole, finally disappearing, leaving only the tip of the tail in view.

In this position she remained fifty seconds, the tip of the tail suddenly disappeared, she then turned completely round and came out head first, experiencing considerable difficulty in extricating herself.

Previous to the operation of depositing she appeared much distressed, and the beak was held open. Afterwards there was a distinct violent quivering of the throat, which I consider was due to the relaxation and contraction of the muscles due to the strain imposed thereon during the process of regurgitation. At 4.27 she went right away without making a note of any description.

She remained exactly 100 seconds by the nesting-hole, 50 of which were occupied in depositing, remaining in view to those in the hide 22 minutes.

Mr. Bunyard gave the following reasons which had convinced him that the Cuckoo's egg had been swallowed and regurgitated :—

(1) When the Cuckoo arrived I noticed that the mouth was held continually open, as though she was experiencing some difficulty in breathing.

(2) A distinct distention of the throat was noticeable just below the level of the shoulder and which was quite absent after depositing.

(3) The quivering of the throat, as already mentioned.

(4) The distance from the entrance to the actual nest was fourteen inches ; the tip of the tail was in view the whole time she was depositing (the length of the Cuckoo is about

13″), so that it was impossible for her to have gone on to the nest to lay in the normal way.

(5) On blowing the eggs the following day I found the two Wagtails' quite fresh, but on blowing the Cuckoo's, I was astonished to find *that it was not fresh.* The white was cloudy and the yolk was congealed, and I had some difficulty in extracting it. Judging from the condition of the contents, I am of the opinion that this egg had been lying in the sun for two or three days, which confirms my previously expressed opinion that a Cuckoo will store an egg pending the finding of a suitable nest. In my opinion this proves conclusively that the egg was not laid into the nest in the normal way, as birds do not lay stale eggs.

This Cuckoo deposited four eggs, which I exhibit with those of their respective foster-parents. On two occasions she removed a foster-parent's egg, and on two occasions they were left intact. The lateness of the season when she commenced to deposit, *i. e.* June 20th, may account for the small clutch and possibly also for the fact that she was an immature bird.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker described the following new form of *Psaroglossa* :—

Psaroglossa spiloptera assamensis, subsp. nov.

Similar to *P. s. spiloptera*, but deeper and more richly coloured both above and below in both sexes. In the male the grey centres to the feathers of the back are bolder and the margins blacker and less brown.

Colours of soft parts and measurements as in *P. s. spiloptera.*

Distribution. Eastern Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Assam, the Burmese Hills to Tenasserim, Shan States, Yunnan, Annam, Cochin China, and South-west Siam.

Type in the British Museum, ♂. Khasia Hills. Tweeddale Collection, Reg. No. 88.9.20.469.

Obs. The type-locality of *P. s. spiloptera* is "Himalayas," restricted to "Simla-Almora" by Ticehurst and Whistler.

Mr. Hugh Whistler communicates the following new species of Firecap :—

Cephalopyrus flammiceps saturatus, subsp. nov.

The male differs from the typical race (type-locality "Himalayas," now restricted to "Mussoorie") in the darker more saturated green of the upper parts; in having the red cap of the typical form reduced to a mere frontal band about four millimetres wide, and the orange-red on the lower surface restricted to the chin and throat. The rest of the underparts are greener and darker than in the typical race.

The female differs from the typical race in the darker more saturated green of the upper parts; while the lower parts are also slightly darker.

Measurements: wings, ♂ 57–59·5 mm. (7 specimens), ♀ 55·5–59·5 mm. (3 specimens), as against ♂ 58·5–64 mm. (12 specimens), ♀ 58·5–62 mm. (8 specimens) in *C. f. flammiceps*.

Hab. Native Sikkim, Bhutan Duars, Buxar Duars.

Type in the British Museum, ♂. Native Sikkim, March 1878 (*Mandelli*). Reg. no. 86.11.1.644.

Mr. Kuroda sent the following description of three races of birds from the Kurile Islands, Hokkaido, and Formosa, which he considers to be worthy of nomenclatural distinction :—

Lagopus mutus kurilensis, subsp. nov.

Lagopus ——? Blakiston & Pryer, Trans. Asiat. Soc. Japan, vol. x. pt. i. p. 128 (1882—"Sumshu or Pervi," N. Kuriles. A winter example).

Lagopus sp.? Stejneger, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. vol. xxi. p. 285 (1898—"Shumshu," N. Kuriles. Ex Blakiston & Pryer).

Lagopus mutus subsp.? Hartert, Vög. pal. Faun. iii. p. 1870 (1921—North-eastern Asia: Kamtschatka, Lena, Yenisei, Baikal, Altai, Tarbagatai Mt., etc.).

Diagnosis. Decidedly different from *Lagopus mutus japonicus* Clark, of Hondo, Japan, in the summer plumage of both sexes. The male is darker and less brownish, while the female is paler and more rusty-yellow than in the Hondo form. Moreover, the wing is on an average longer, while

that of the male not rarely measures over 200 mm. instead of 190–200 mm. as in the same sex of *L. m. japonicus* (9 specimens including young examined).

Type. ♂ ad. in summer plumage, in N. Kuroda Coll., no. 3280. Paramushir Island, Northern Kurile Islands, 15.viii.1917 (Y. Uchiyama Coll.).

Measurements. Wing, ♂ 197–204 (type), ♀ 185–194; tail, ♂ 109·5–114·5, ♀ 100-110; tarsus, ♂ 33·5 (type)–37, ♀ 34–36; entire culmen, ♂ 20–21 (type), ♀ 20–21 mm.

Hab. Northern Kurile Islands; Simusir and Paramushir. Probably the same form is found in North-eastern Siberia (Kamtschatka, Baikal, etc.—see Hartert, *l. c.* p. 1871).

Obs. This bird was first obtained by H. J. Snow on Simusir, the nearest island of the Kuriles to Kamtschatka, and was recorded by Blakiston and Pryer (*l. c.*).

Passer rutilans kikuchii, subsp. nov.

Passer rutilans rutilans (nec Temm.), Uchida and Kuroda, Tori, vol. ii. no. 6, p. 17 (1918—Hokuzanko, Formosa).

Diagnosis.—Similar to *P. rutilans rutilans* from Japan proper, but the general coloration of the upper parts decidedly paler and the mantle with very few spots only. These spots do not reach as far as the lower back; in some specimens they are nearly obsolete in the centre of mantle; the width of the spotted band on mantle measures 14–15·5 mm. instead of 20–26 mm. as in typical *P. rutilans*; the yellowish margins to the feathers of the mantle are very narrow; bill comparatively more slender and not so thick as in most typical specimens (3 specimens examined).

Type. ♂ ad., in N. Kuroda Coll., no. 7664. Horisha, Nanto District, Central Formosa, 14.iv.1908. Y. Kikuchi Coll.

Measurements. Wing, ♂ 70, 71 (type), ♀ 65; tail, ♂ 44·5, 49 (type), ♀ 43; tarsus, ♂ 16·5 (type), 17, ♀ 17·5; exposed culmen, ♂ 11, 11 (type), ♀ 11; entire culmen, ♂ 12·5 (type), 13, ♀ 13 mm.; height of bill at base, ♂ 6·5, 6·5 (type), ♀ 7 mm.

Hab. Probably confined to the Island of Formosa.

Named in honour of the late Mr. Kikuchi, the collector.

Certhia familiaris ernsti, subsp. nov.

Certhia familiaris familiaris (nec L.), Hartert, Vög. pal. Faun. i. p. 318 (1905—"Jesso"=Hokkaido), part.

Diagnosis. Very similar in coloration to *C. f. familiaris* from Sweden and measurements of body, except that of the wing, on an average a trifle shorter (wing, ♂ 63·5–65 ; ♀ 59–64 mm.). It differs from *C. f. japonica* in the paler coloration, and by the wing and bill being distinctly longer (exposed culmen, 13·5–15 mm. instead of 11–12·5 mm. as in *C. f. japonica*) (6 specimens examined).

Type. ♂ ad., in N. Kuroda Coll., no. 5005. Uenai, Prov. Iburi, Hokkaido, 19. ii. 1921. H. Orii Coll.

Measurements. Wing *, ♂ 63·5 (type), 64·5, 65, 65·5, ♀ 59, 64; tail, ♂ 56+x (type), 57+x, 58, 65, ♀ 59, 61; tarsus, ♂ 14·5 (type), 15, 15, 15, ♀ 13, 14·5; exposed culmen, ♂ 14 (type), 14, 15, 15, ♀ 13·5, 15 mm.

Hab. The new form, *ernsti*, probably breeds in Hokkaido and migrates to Central Hondo (Prov. Shinano) in winter. Dr. Hartert (*op. cit.* iii. 1921, p. 2102), however, mentions that *C. f. japonica* is found not only in Hondo but in "Jesso"=Hokkaido (near Sapporo). I have no examples of the species from Sakhalin, Kuriles, Korea, N. China, etc., for comparison with my new form.

Observation. Dr. Hartert (*op. cit.* i. 1905, p. 318—footnote) already pointed out the differences of the Hokkaido form from typical *C. f. familiaris* and *C. f. japonica*. He gave the measurements of both sexes of the Hokkaido examples as follows: "Flügel, ♂ 63·5–65·5, ♀ 62–63 mm." Named in honour of Dr. Ernst Hartert of the Tring Museum.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following description of a new form of Manucode from Cape York :—

Phonygammus yorki, sp. nov.,

differs from *P. gouldi* in being of a distinctly purplish-blue on the upper surface, not metallic-green. It is also larger : wing 170 mm.

Type in Tring Museum. Black Gin Creek, Cape York. Dec. 23rd, 1912.

* [*Editor's Footnote.*—In view of the fact that the wing-measurements of typical *C. f. familiaris* are given in Hartert's 'Palearctic Fauna' and Witherby's 'Hand-list of British Birds' as ranging between 63 and 67 mm., it is a little difficult to understand how *C. f. ernsti*, founded chiefly on size, can be substantiated.]

Mr. H. Kirke Swann, on behalf of Dr. Casey Wood, exhibited a series of Fruit-Pigeons from Fiji, where Dr. Wood spent six months of last year studying the fauna of that group. These drawings were done by the artist, Mr. Belcher, after a study of the birds in their native haunts.

Professor P. P. Sushkin, of the Academy of Petrograd, exhibited some very beautifully-coloured photographs of a family of the extremely rare *Falco altaicus* Menzb., and made the following remarks. He said that the family was obtained from a nest, at an altitude of about 2500 metres, during the Sushkin expedition of 1914 in South-east Russian Altai (exact locality in the Chuia range on the river Kush Konoor, an affluent of the Chagan-usoon, a tributary of the upper Chuia River).

The adult male was killed and five downy young taken and successfully reared. Most of them survived to the fully adult stage of plumage, records being kept of intermediate stages by means of descriptions and photographs. Extremes of individual variability are exhibited by this family: (1) some birds in adult plumage are barred above and present bluish tints proper to the northern jerfalcons; (2) others are dark, and while being nearly uniformly bluish-slate above are heavily marked below on a darkened ground-colour; (3) some birds which are barred above exhibit a preponderance of red colours, recalling the central Asian forms of the *F. cherrug* group. Adult coloration is assumed after the first moult, subsequent changes being insignificant. As to the nomenclature, the dark nearly unbarred type has been described as *F. altaicus* Menzb., and this name must stand as having priority. The barred type has been described as *F. lorenzi* Menzb., and this name becomes a synonym. As to taxonomical values and relations, *F. altaicus* must be accorded specific rank, its breeding-area (W. Sayan, Altai, Tarbagatai, Russian and Chinese Turkestan) covering a part of the breeding-area of the *F. cherrug* group. It is, to a certain extent, intermediate between that group and the northern jerfalcons, since strongly reddish specimens are individual reversions to the primitive type.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst and Major R. E. Cheesman forwarded the following descriptions of new races from Central Arabia :—

Prinia gracilis hufufæ, subsp. nov.

Differs from *P. g. gracilis*, *P. g. carlo*, *P. g. palestinæ*, and *P. g. iraquensis* in the much heavier and broader subterminal black bars to the tail; more heavily streaked and darker upper parts than *P. g. gracilis*; less heavily streaked upper parts than in *P. g. palestinæ*; greyer, not so dark above, and with coarser streaks than *P. g. deltæ*; greyer upper parts and shorter bill than in *P. g. natronensis*; paler and greyer upper parts than in *P. g. yemenensis*, paler rufous wing-edges, purer white underparts.

8 ♂ ♂. Wing 44–48, tarsus 60–68. 4 ♀ ♀. Wing 44–47, tarsus 61–65 mm.

Type in British Museum, ♂. Hufuf, Hasa Prov., Central Arabia, 28 xi.1923. Cox-Cheesman Coll., No. 5056.

Distribution. Oasis of Hufuf, Hasa Prov., Central Arabia.

Passer domesticus hufufæ, subsp. nov.

♂. Differs from *P. d. indicus* in having the head, rump, and upper tail-coverts greyer, which in fresh plumage is slightly washed with a paler brown and to a less extent than in *P. d. indicus*; greater coverts and tertials paler cinnamon; the mantle is less marked with cinnamon and is generally paler in coloration; underparts purer white; cheeks white. Smaller bill and whiter cheeks than in *P. d. niloticus*.

♀. In the same parts as in the male the female shows a slightly paler and greyer wash, less ochraceous, underparts whiter, less creamy than in *indicus*.

9 ♂ ♂. Wing 72–77, bill base 13·25–14·5 mm. 5 ♀ ♀. Wing 70·5–74, bill base 12·5–13·5.

Type in British Museum, ♂. Hufuf-town, Hasa Prov., Central Arabia, 9.xii.1923. Cox-Cheesman Coll., No. 5070.

Distribution. Oasis of Hufuf, Hasa Prov., Central Arabia.

Obs. Though odd individuals can be matched with individuals of *P. d. indicus*, when a series in fresh-moulted

plumage of both is examined the differences stand out. We have examined a series from S. Arabia and we cannot in any way differentiate these ("*P. d. buryi*") from *P. d. indicus*.

Ammomanes deserti azizi, subsp. nov.

This race is much paler on the upper parts than the palest *A. d. isabellina*—a creamy-isabelline colour; it is whiter on the underparts and has the ticking on the throat very dark.

3 ♂♂. Wing 100–105 mm. 5 ♀♀. Wing 94–100 mm. Bill as in *A. d. isabellina*.

Type in Brit. Mus., ♂. Jabal Ghanima, Hasa Prov. 12.i.24. Cox-Cheesman Coll., No. 5139.

Distribution. Hasa Prov., Cental Arabia.

Named in honour of His Highness Abdul Aziz ibn Saud, Sultan of Najd.

Obs. Capt. Cheesman obtained a single bird originally near Oqair on March 31, 1921, but, though I was certain it was new, I did not like to name it from a single rather worn bird. The series now obtained show that *A. d. azizi* is clearly separable. In worn dress this race has the upper parts more cream-coloured still, very little isabelline colour showing. —C. B. T.

NOTICE.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 12th of November, 1924, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Dr. Percy R. Lowe, at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands not later than at the meeting MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.* George C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

3-NOV.1924 BRITISH MUSEUM

Ent Room.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

BRITISH MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY ZOOLOGY
5 DEC. 1924

No. CCXCI.

The two-hundred-and-eighty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, November 12th, 1924.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—W. Shore Baily; E. C. Stuart Baker; G. Brown; P. F. Bunyard; E. P. Chance; Hon. G. L. Charteris; Major R. E. Cheesman; Col. A. Delmé-Radcliffe; Col. H. Delmé-Radcliffe; A. Ezra; Major S. S. Flower; The Hon. Masauji Hachisuka; Dr. E. Hartert; L. M. Jopling; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; G. C. Lambert; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); N. Lucas; Admiral H. Lynes; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; J. H. McNeile; Dr. P. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; H. Munt; D. W. Musselwhite; C. Oldham; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; D. Seth-Smith; Sir Malcolm Seton; Major A. G. L. Sladen; H. Stevens; Capt. H. F. Stoneham; W. H. Thorpe; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; Dr. N. F. Ticehurst; B. Tucker; H. Whistler; J. Sladen Wing.

Guests:—Major R. Alexander; H. Hodge; B. C. Tenison Mosse; Prof. P. Sushkin; Dr. E. Stresemann; Prince N. Taka-Tsukasa; A. W. L. Turner.

The Chairman read the following Annual Address :—

It has been customary for the Chairman to give each year a summary of the chief ornithological activities during the past session. I see that Mr. Sclater omitted to do this last year, but it seems to me a useful item, which should not be allowed to lapse, and I have therefore prepared, with the kind help of several members, a brief report on the period covered by our session 1923–4.

We have had to deplore the deaths of the following members:—N. C. Rothschild (Oct. 12, 1923), W. J. Fitzherbert Brockholes (Jan. 21, 1924), C. Chubb (June 25, 1924), and W. R. Ogilvie-Grant (July 26, 1924).

Ornithologists have been very active in field-work abroad during the period under notice. Major R. E. Cheesman made an important journey in an unexplored part of Central Arabia between November 1923 and March 1924. His collections, especially of mammals, are of great importance, and we shall have the pleasure of hearing something about the expedition and the birds to-night. Admiral H. Lynes is ever active in the field, and this spring he visited, by permission of the French authorities, the Sous territory which lies between the Great and Little Atlas ranges, and was hitherto unknown ornithologically. I am glad to say we have prevailed on Admiral Lynes to give us some account of this expedition to-night. Dr. E. Hartert also visited Marocco this spring, and gave us a brief account of his journey at the June meeting. Mr. H. Stevens has been collecting birds and mammals in Tonkin for the British Museum under the Salvin-Godman Fund. He has been in country which is, to some extent, new to the collector, and we shall look forward to Mr. Kinnear's report on the birds. Unfortunately, through the capsizing of a river steamer Mr. Stevenson lost all his notes and photographs, and he himself narrowly escaped being drowned. Mr. Willoughby Lowe has been on a journey through Tenasserim and Siam with Mr. A. S. Vernay, and the considerable collections made have been divided between the British and American Museums and are being worked out by

Mr. Kinnear and Mr. Chapin. The third Everest Expedition was unable to collect birds except in the Chumbi Valley, but interesting field-observations were made by Major H. H. Hingston, the naturalist of the expedition, and I hope we may have the pleasure of having some account from him at a future meeting.

The S.Y. 'St. George' is continuing her voyage amongst the islands of the Pacific, and we may look forward to an account of the birds from Lt.-Col. H. J. Kelsall, the ornithologist on board. Lord William Percy and Dr. F. M. Chapman (of New York) journeyed to Chili, where they made interesting observations on the Steamer-Duck (*Tachyeres cinerea*). Mr. H. Whistler has been continuing his bird-work in north-west India, and recently while on leave accompanied Dr. C. B. Ticehurst on a collecting-trip to Navarra; and my wife and I also again visited Spain (south-east) last autumn. An Oxford expedition to Spitsbergen and North-East Land yielded some ornithological results of interest. The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain made a journey through Finnish Lapland from Petschenga in the north through difficult country to rail-head at Rovaniemi, whence he travelled to Helsingfors. We hope to hear later of the ornithological results. Mr. J. H. McNeile, after a trip to Spain, also visited Lapland on the borders of Sweden and Finland, while Mr. G. Bolam went up the Pasvig River where he had been with Admiral Lynes in 1923. Major W. M. Congreve made a trip to Hungary, of which he has already published an account in the 'Oologists' Record.' Col. and Mrs. Meinertzhagen visited Madeira, and Mr. A. H. Paget-Wilkes has been studying the birds in Cape Province and more recently in Nyasaland.

Mr. A. S. Meek's collector, Mr. Eichhorn, has visited St. Mathias and New Ireland, north-east of New Guinea, and is now collecting in New Britain. Lord Rothschild showed us some of the birds at our last meeting, and papers by Dr. Hartert have appeared in 'Novitates Zoologicæ.' The Whitney South Sea Expedition, under Mr. R. H. Beck, is progressing, and important collections have been received

in America and are being worked out by Dr. R. C. Murphy. Mr. Ludlow Griscom has made an expedition for the American Museum to a little-known part of Western Panama, and although he had to leave the most interesting region, after a very short stay, owing to the hostility of the Indians, he, nevertheless, obtained some valuable results.

Before mentioning books on ornithology published during the period under review, I must make mention of the important discovery made by Dr. Percy Lowe, and probably suspected some years ago by Mr. G. L. Bates, that the Broadbills (*Eurylæmidæ*), hitherto considered to be confined to India, Malaya, and the Phillipines, are represented in Africa by the genus *Smithornis*.

Among ornithological works in course of publication I may mention that Mr. G. M. Mathews has made good progress with his great work on the 'Birds of Australia,' Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker has brought out the second volume of his much-appreciated "Birds" in the 'Fauna of British India,' Mr. J. C. Phillips has issued volume ii. of his important work on the 'Natural History of the Ducks.' Mr. Van Oort has made progress with his fine volumes on the birds of Holland, while the 'Practical Handbook of British Birds' has been completed. Of new works the late Colonel Wardlaw Ramsay's very useful 'Guide to the Birds of Europe and North Africa' has been issued, and Mr. W. L. Sclater has published the first part of his much-valued 'Systema Avium Ethiopicarum'; of other faunal works we have Mr. W. L. Dawson's remarkable volumes on the birds of California, Mr. W. C. Tait's useful book on the 'Birds of Portugal,' and a very complete account of the 'Animal Life in the Yosemite' by Dr. J. Grinnell and Mr. T. I. Storer. Dr. G. C. Low's 'Literature of the Charadriiformes' will be consulted by all those working at Waders. Dr. and Mrs. Heinroth have commenced publication of an illustrated work on 'Die Vögel Mitteleuropas,' which promises to be of great importance. Most ornithologists will read with interest Prof. J. A. Thomson's 'Biology of Birds,' though they may deplore its inaccuracies. Dr. J. M. Dewar's book on 'The Bird as a Diver' is a good example of specialized

observation; Mr. E. C. Arnold has produced a book on 'British Waders,' illustrated in colour by himself; Mr. Abel Chapman's new volume 'The Borders and Beyond' will be read with pleasure (even by systematists), while there is much to interest ornithologists in Mr. W. Beebe's 'Galapagos' and in Dr. P. A. Buxton's 'Animal Life in Deserts.'

We have also to welcome two new ornithological journals: one hailing from Helsingfors is entitled 'Ornis Fennica,' while the other, from Germany, edited by Dr. L. von Boxberger, and, dealing especially with biological and oological questions, has the elaborate title 'Beiträge zur Fortpflanzungsbiologie der Vögel mit Berücksichtigung der Oologie.'

Mr. Witherby exhibited portions of three eggs of the Common Snipe (*Capella gallinago*), which had been taken in June 1924 at Chaves near the Spanish frontier in North Portugal, and had been sent to him by Mr. Geoffrey Tait (a nephew of the author of 'The Birds of Portugal'). The eggs were found in a marshy field by Dr. Luiz da Cunha Monteiro and were brought to Mr. Tait's notice by Mr. J. Santos Silva, Jun. The eggs were very much incubated and the shells are broken, but Mr. Jourdain, to whom they were submitted, has no hesitation in identifying them as those of Snipe. A young bird from the fourth egg has been preserved by Mr. Silva, but has not been sent.

Mr. Witherby remarked that he had also received from Mr. João Reis, Jun., of the University Museum, Oporto, a copy of a paper written by himself and published this year in 'Anais do Instituto de Zoologia' on the breeding of the Snipe in Portugal. In this paper Mr. Reis gives details of how he found a nest and three fresh eggs of the Common Snipe on June 26th, 1918, on the Serra do Barroso near Montalegre, which is not far from Chaves. He adds that Snipe are said to breed commonly in that neighbourhood and have a local name meaning the mountain goat, derived from their "bleat." Mr. Reis further states that he has been informed that some Snipe also breed near Villa Pouca d'Aguiar near Vidago, rather south of Chaves.

Mr. Witherby did not know of any previous breeding record of the Snipe in the Spanish Peninsula. It had often been stated that the bird bred in the Pyrenees, but Mr. Witherby had been unable to find a satisfactory record of this, and the farthest south in France that the Snipe appeared to breed was in the Gironde. It also breeds in northern Italy.

Major R. E. Cheesman gave an account of his journey during the winter of 1923–1924 into Arabia, where he travelled in Hasa Province, and also through the Jafura Desert, and reached Jabrin in the Great South Desert.

Sir Percy Cox had obtained from the Sultan of Najd permission for this expedition to make a collection of Mammals and Birds, as the fauna was entirely unknown. The Great South Desert had never been entered and had scarcely even been seen from a distance by European, and, as far as is known, had never been crossed through the centre by an Arab. The first halt was made at Hufuf, an oasis of date-gardens and rice-fields irrigated by flowing springs. In this cultivated area a new race of Wren-Warbler (*Prinia gracilis hufufæ*) and a new subspecies of Sparrow (*Passer domesticus hufufæ*) were collected, and the Mesopotamian race of Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis mesopotamiæ*) was found to be plentiful. In the desert surrounding the gardens were some chalky sandstone hills, where two species of Desert-Lark (*Ammomanes cinctura pallida*) and a new subspecies (*Ammomanes deserti azizi*) were obtained. The Pallid Crag-Martin (*Ptyonoprogne obsoleta obsoleta*) and the Desert Eagle-Owl (*Bubo bubo desertorum*) were also collected, and were proved to be residents in the cliffs. All the species mentioned were exhibited at the meeting. The journey through the desert to Jabrin demonstrated the scarcity of residents in the waterless regions, although evidence was produced that the great migration-stream of Palearctic birds travelling between winter-quarters in Africa and breeding-grounds in Iraq, Persia, Caucasia, and farther north is able to—and, in fact, does—take a straight line across the desert.

The Desert-Raven (*Corvus c. ruficollis*) was found nesting in low scrub, and a clutch of six eggs was taken, and a Buzzard (*Buteo*, probably *ferox*) had a nest with young in down on a cliff. In Jabrin the most plentiful bird was, appropriately enough, the Desert-Warbler (*Sylvia nana*) ; but Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor aucheri*), *Ammomanes*, *Alæmon*, Short-toed and Crested Larks, Spotted Sandgrouse (*Pterocles senegallus*), and Rock-Doves were also seen there. Major Cheesman drew attention to the fact that the closest affinities in colour to some of his specimens had been found in those from the African deserts. They seemed to be cut off from their next-of-kin not by intermediate forms, but by distinctly darker forms that came between and divided them. He also thought it would be reasonable to suppose that the desert-forms collected would represent the whole of the Southern Arabian Desert, until the sub-montane districts, watered by rivers from the Aden and Yaman mountains were reached, such as Jauf and Najran oases, on the southern border of the Great South Desert, where a difference in the fauna might be expected. He remarked that northward it was known that these particularly pale desert-forms neither reach Iraq nor the steppe desert west of Iraq, but they seemed to run some way into Palestine.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear exhibited a new form of Swallow, which he proposed to call

Hirundo daurica vernayi, subsp. nov.

Differs from *H. daurica striolata* from Java in the colour of the sides of the head and underparts, which, instead of being white washed with pale fulvous, are rusty-chestnut, while the rump is darker and the under tail-coverts rather more steel-blue.

Type, ♀ , in British Museum, No. 466. Longlung, Siam. Collected by W. P. Lowe, and presented by Mr. A. S. Vernay.

Note.—Two examples of this Swallow were shot by Mr. Willoughby Lowe while flying round some native

huts in a clearing in the heavy forest at Longlung, on the Siam–Burma frontier. No other specimens were seen.

Hirundo daurica striolata is represented in the Museum collection by specimens from Java, Sumatra, Flores, Moluccas, "China," Formosa, Philippines, Karanee and S. Shan States in Burma, and Cachar in Assam, whence came *Lilla substriata* of Hume ('Stray Feathers,' 1877, p. 264).

Both specimens are in fresh plumage, and the male, which is in the American Museum of Natural History, still has the outer primaries partly in the sheath.

Mr. Kinnear also made the following remarks:—

Mr. C. B. Kloss has kindly drawn my attention to the fact that the *Garrulax* and *Tephrodornis* which I described as new in the June 1924 number of the 'Bulletin' have already been described by Mr. Robinson and himself.

The two birds will therefore stand as

(1) Garrulax pectoralis meridionalis Rob. & Kloss, Bull. B. O. C. xl. p. 11 (1919): Hat Sanuk, S.W. Siam.

Garrulax pectoralis subsuffusa Kinnear, Bull. B. O. C. xliv. p. 103 (1924): Meetan, Tenasserim.

(2) Tephrodornis pelvicus fretensis Rob. & Kloss.

Tephrodornis gularis fretensis Rob. & Kloss, Journ. Straits Branch Royal As. Soc. 1920, p. 109: Gunong Angsi, Negri Sembilan, F.M.S.

Tephrodornis pelvicus vernayi Kinnear, Bull. B. O. C. xliv. p. 102 (1924): Um Pang, Siam.

The following descriptions of twelve new species and subspecies from French Indo-China were forwarded by Messrs. Jean Delacour and Pierre Jabouille:—

Tropicoperdix merlini, sp. nov.

Resembles generally *Tropicoperdix chloropus* (Tick.), but differs in having the tip of bill, legs, and feet bright yellow; the fore neck and the sides of the neck bright ferruginous-rufous; the whole plumage darker, without

any ferruginous tinge on the breast ; the black markings on the underparts larger and more numerous ; and the outer webs of the primaries almost pure black.

Iris brown ; skin of the face dull red ; legs, feet, and tip of the bill yellow ; base of the bill red.

Types in Coll. J. Delacour. ♂. Maïlanh (Quangtri, Annam), 11.1.24. ♀. Maïlanh (Quangtri, Annam), 25.2.24.

Obs. 6 males and 4 females from Lao-Bao and Maïlanh, 10.1.24–17.4.24, measure :—

Males : Wing 150–160 mm., tarsus 36–39, culmen 15–18.

Females : Wing 141–149 mm., tarsus 35–36, culmen 15–16.

Named in honour of H.E. M. Martial Merlin, Governor-General of Indo-China.

Tropicoperdix cognacqi, sp. nov.

Differs from *T. chloropus* (Tick.) in having the feathers of the back of a different pattern ; the shafts are mostly pale buff and form distinct streaks, and the dark spots, instead of forming rather distinct stripes, are scattered all over the feather and give it a mottled appearance.

Iris brown ; bill greenish-grey, base dull red ; skin of the face dull red ; legs and feet greenish-grey.

Types in Coll. J. Delacour. ♂ ♀. Saigon, 11.4.24.

Obs. 2 males and 1 female from Saigon, 11.4.24, measure :—

Males : Wing 154, 155 mm. ; tarsus 35, 33 ; culmen 16, 16.

Female : Wing 153 mm. ; tarsus 35 ; culmen 15.

Named in honour of Dr. M. Cognacq, Governor of Cochin-China.

Hierophasis imperialis, sp. nov.

General colour of the male dark shining blue, with bright blue markings on the wing-coverts, back, rump, and upper tail-coverts ; crest moderate and black ; tail rather long and slightly curved. The feathers on the middle back and the two central tail-feathers faintly spotted with reddish-brown.

Iris yellowish-brown ; skin of the face bright scarlet ; legs and feet crimson, spurs white ; bill pale green, darker on the base of the upper mandible.

Obs. This bird differs from *H. edwardsi* (Oust.) by its superior size, its black crest, no green on the wings, and a more curved tail ; the general colour is darker blue, not so bright.

The female is bright chestnut on the back, wings, and upper and lower tail-coverts ; head and neck pale brown, with cheeks and throat greyish-buff; primaries black, suffused with pale grey ; secondaries chestnut, spotted and and bordered with black ; two central tail-feathers chestnut-brown, marked with fine black spots and streaks, the others being black. All the brown and chestnut feathers are faintly spotted and streaked with black.

Iris brown ; naked skin of the face dull red ; legs and feet crimson ; bill pale greenish-brown.

Types in Coll. J. Delacour. ♂. Doughoï (Annam), 16.4.24. ♀. Doughoï (Annam), 29.12.24.

Male : Wing 252 mm., tarsus 86, tail 300, culmen 30.

Female : Wing 214 mm., tarsus 67, tail 214, culmen 28.

Named in honour of H.M. Khaï-Dinh, Emperor of Annam.

Polyplectrum chinquis ghigii, subsp. nov.

Differs from *P. chinquis* (P. L. S. Müll.) by its general ground-colour being distinctly rufous-grey ; the spots on the feathers are larger and pale buff, instead of whitish-grey ; the ocelli on the tail-feathers are surrounded by a broad buff ring, even all round, while in *P. chinquis* it is much broader towards the base of the feathers and nearly obsolete on the tip-side.

Iris whitish-grey ; legs and feet grey ; skin of the face livid white ; bill whitish-grey.

Types in Coll. J. Delacour. ♂. Maïlanh (Annam), 15.4.24. ♀. Lake Babé (Tonkin), 1.5.24.

Obs. 2 males, 1 female, and several living specimens from Quangtri and Lake Babé, 10.1.24–1.5.24, measure :—

Males : Wing 218, 188 mm.; tarsus 73, 75 ; culmen 22, 23.

Female : Wing 180 ; tarsus 59 ; culmen 20.

Named in honour of Prof. A. Ghigi, of the Bologna University.

Sphenocercus apicaudus lowei, subsp. nov.

Differs from *S. apicaudus* (Blyth) by its longer and more pointed tail, which is also greyer, the extreme tip only being green ; head less yellowish, not contrasting with the neck and back ; the latter is of a darker and more uniform green ; lower back and rump bright yellowish-green ; under tail-coverts whiter, with very little chestnut-brown ; and the yellow edgings of greater wing-coverts broader.

Iris blue and reddish-brown ; bill bluish-grey ; skin of face blue ; legs and feet crimson.

Types in Coll. J. Delacour. ♂. Laobao (Quangtri, Annam), 3.6.1923. ♀. Laobao (Quangtri, Annam), 15.2.1924.

Obs. 1 male and 3 females from Laobao, 3.6.23–15.2.24, measure :

Male : Wing 160 mm. ; tarsus 20 ; culmen 22.

Females : Wing 159, 165, 162 mm. ; tarsus 21, 20, 20 ; culmen 22, 22, 21 ; longest tail 227.

Named in honour of Dr. Percy R. Lowe, Curator of Birds in the British Museum.

Micropternus brachyurus annamensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *M. b. fokiensis* (Swinh.) in its smaller size, more barred wings and tail, much darker head, more barred but lighter body, while the rufous collar on the hind neck is of a brighter rufous.

From *M. b. holroydi* Swinh., from Hainan, it differs in having more barred tail and wing and a darker head ; it is also a larger bird.

Types in Coll. J. Delacour. ♂. Haïlang, Annam, 29.1.1924. ♀. Haïlang, 17.10.1923.

Obs. 2 males and 2 females from Haïlang and Hué, Oct. 17, 1923, to Feb. 6, 1924, measure :—

Males: Wing 125, 120 mm.; tarsus 19, 19; culmen 23, 23

Females: Wing 123, 122 mm.; tarsus 20, 19; culmen 25, 24.

Iris dark brown; bill and legs blackish-grey.

Cyornis pallipes bannermani, subsp. nov.

Differs from *C. p. pallipes* (Jerd.) and *C. p. hainana* O.-Grant, in having the middle of the throat and upper breast pure white; abdomen white, washed with grey; a broad but not strictly defined bluish-grey belt across the lower breast.

Iris brown; bill black; legs and feet horny-grey.

Type in coll. J. Delacour. ♀. Khesanh (Quangtri, Annam), 22.2.1924.

Wing 70 mm., tarsus 17, culmen 12, tail 58.

Named in honour of Mr. D. Bannerman, of the British Museum.

Garrulax moniliger pasquieri, subsp. nov.

Differs from other races of *G. moniliger* in its smaller size and in having the upper back of a more vivid reddish-brown, contrasting sharply with the head and remaining upper parts; pectoral collar browner, with less black and flank strongly splashed with brown.

Iris yellow; bill black, edged with horny-brown; legs and feet grey.

Types in Coll. J. Delacour. ♂. Khesanh (Quangtri, Annam), 26.2.1924. ♀. Khesanh (Quangtri, Annam), 27.2.1924.

Male: Wing 111 mm., tarsus 37, culmen 21, tail 115.

Female: Wing 112 mm., tarsus 36, culmen 21, tail 116.

Named in honour of M. P. Pasquier, Resident Superieur in Annam.

Criniger tephrogenys annamensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *C. t. henrici* Oust., from Tonkin and Yunnan, in having the underparts much more tinged with yellow and the back of a much more olive-brown.

Compared with the three specimens of *C. t. henrici* in the Paris Museum (including the types) our birds appear to be smaller, their wing varying between 99 and 112 mm., while the *C. t. henrici* measure 113, 112, and 115 mm.

Two specimens from Cochin-China (Harmand, 1876 and 1877) differ from our Annam birds in having the chest browner, underparts of a deeper yellow, back and tail more chestnut, with conspicuously paler shafts to the tail-feathers. Their wings measure 115 and 110 mm.

Kloss's birds from South Annam are referable to the present subspecies.

Types in Coll. J. Delacour. ♂. Laobao, Quangtri, Annam, 13.2.1924. Wing 109 mm. ♀. Laobao, Quangtri, Annam, 12.2.1924. Wing 103 mm.

Obs. Eight males, two females. Laobao, Khesanh, Langkhoaï and Col des Nuages, 12th Feb. to 5th May, 1924, measure :—

Males : Wings 102–112 mm ; tarsus 19–20 ; culmen 17–18.

Females : Wings 103, 99 mm. ; tarsus 19, 18 ; culmen 16, 16. Iris reddish-brown ; bill and legs grey.

Mixornis kinneari, sp. nov.

Crown chestnut, blending into olive-brown on the neck; this last colour extends to the upper parts, being greener on the neck and upper parts ; supercilium and sides of the forehead yellow ; lores black ; cheeks and ear-coverts dull yellow streaked with grey ; chin, throat, and upper breast bright yellow with conspicuous black shafts ; rest of the breast yellow, with the base of the feathers grey ; flanks and rest of the underparts dull greyish-olive ; wings and tail brown, the primaries and four first secondaries having blackish inner webs ; the tail-feathers have faint dark cross-bars.

Iris white ; bill slaty-brown, paler on edges ; legs horny flesh-colour.

Types in Coll. J. Delacour. ♂ ♀. Haïlang (Quangtri, Annam), 29.1.1924.

Obs. One male, two females. Haïlang and Quangtri, 23.10.23–29.1.24, measure :—

Male: Wing 60 mm. ; tarsus 16; culmen 12.

Females: Wing 56, 58 mm. ; tarsus 15, 19 ; culmen 12·5.

Named in honour of Mr. N. B. Kinnear, Assistant Curator of Birds in the British Museum.

Cissa chinensis klossi, subsp. nov.

Resembles *Cissa margaritæ* Rob. & Kloss, from South Annam, but has the crest yellowish-green instead of golden-yellow, the forehead and fore part of the crown only being of that colour. By this same character and a stronger bill it differs from Siamese specimens.

Iris crimson ; bill, legs, and feet coral-red.

Type in Coll. J. Delacour. ♂. Khesanh (Quangtri, Annam), 16.3.24.

Obs. Two males, 1 ?. Khesanh and Quangtri, 6.3.23–16.3.24, measure :—

Males: Wing 153, 144, 141 mm. ; tarsus 45, 44, 43 ; culmen 30, 33, 29 ; tail 205, 199, 186.

Named in honour of M. C. Boden Kloss, Director of the Raffles Museum, Singapore.

Æthopyga siparaja mangini, subsp. nov.

Differs from *Æ. s. tonkinensis* Hart. in having the general colour more carmine, not so scarlet-red ; the metallic-green forehead and anterior part of the crown does not extend so far, reaching only the line of the eyes ; the rest of the crown is greyer and darker, without any yellow tinge.

Female similar to *Æ. siparaja siparaja.*

Iris dark brown ; bill blackish-brown above, light horny-brown below ; legs and feet dark brown.

Types in Coll. J. Delacour. ♂. Laobao (Quangtri, Annam), 14.2.1924. ♀. Vinhlinh (Quangtri, Annam), 2.2.1924.

Obs. Thirteen males, two females. Vinhlinh, Laobao, Maïlanh, Langkhoai, Hailang (Quangtri), 2.2.1924–26.3.1924, measure :—

Males : Wings 51–56 mm. ; tarsus, average, 11 ; culmen, average, 17.

Females : Wings 46, 47 mm. ; tarsus 10, 10 ; culmen 16, 17.

Named in honour of Prof. L. Mangin, Director of the Paris Museum.

Admiral Lynes gave a short account of his ornithological experiences last summer in the Sous country of South Morocco, which the French authorities kindly permitted him to visit and in which they gave him every facility to collect.

He had written an account of this trip for the 'Archives Scientifiques du Protectorat Français,' edited by Dr. Jacques Lionville, the well-known Marine Biologist, and the account would appear shortly. It would be in English, with a *résumé* in French.

The London Agents for this and other publications of the Société des Sciences Naturelles de Maroc were Messrs. Janson & Sons, 44 Great Russell Street, W.C. 1.

Dr. Ernst Hartert described a new bird from Madagascar as follows :—

Neomixis flavoviridis, sp. nov.

It is somewhat difficult to say to which genus this new species belongs ; it agrees with *Neomixis* (Madagascar), but the tail is longer, more abruptly graduated, the outer rectrix being 27 mm. shorter than the longest (central) pair. In the shape of the tail it agrees with the African *Apalis*, which, however, has a stronger, less sharply pointed bill. For the time being I do not separate the bird from *Neomixis*. A single male was shot in November 1922 by Mr. W. F. H. Rosenberg's collector.

♂ *ad.* Upperside olivaceous-green, top of head more brownish ; lores and cheeks whitish, with dark brown outer edges to the feathers ; ear-coverts more blackish ; round the

eye some whitish dots ; behind the eye an indistinct pale yellowish superciliary line ; underside yellow, brightest on the throat ; sides and under tail-coverts olivaceous-greenish ; remiges dusky brown, inner webs bordered with pale yellow, outer webs of the colour of the back ; tail uniform, like the upperside of the body ; bill (in skin) blackish-brown, under mandible and cutting-edge partially pale; feet (in skin) brown.

Bill (from forehead) 14 mm., left wing 55, tail 59, tarsus 17·5.

Hab. Analamazastra, Madagascar.

The generic names *Eroessa* and *Dauria* being preoccupied, *Neomixis* Sharpe must be used, as shown by Oberholser.

Type in the Tring Museum.

Dr. Ernest Hartert also exhibited a Desert Lark, which he described as follows :—

Ammomanes deserti payni, subsp. nov.

Very similar to *A. d. algeriensis*, but upperside slightly darker and decidedly more rufous, especially on the rump, underside more brownish. Dimensions as in *A. d. algeriensis*, but bill perhaps larger on average ; only five examined.

Habitat. S.W. Algeria and neighbouring parts of E. Morocco, Figuig, Aïn-Sefra.

Type. ♂ ad. Figuig, 19. iii. 1924. W. A. Payn coll. In Tring Museum.

Named after Lt.-Colonel W. A. Payn. In Nov. Zool. 1914, p. 192, Lord Rothschild and I have already mentioned the more rufous colour of two specimens collected by us near Aïn-Sefra, but as they were in very worn plumage, having been collected in May, we did not venture to name them. Three specimens from March, shot near Figuig, however, confirm the differences, and I have pleasure in naming this race in honour of Col. Payn.

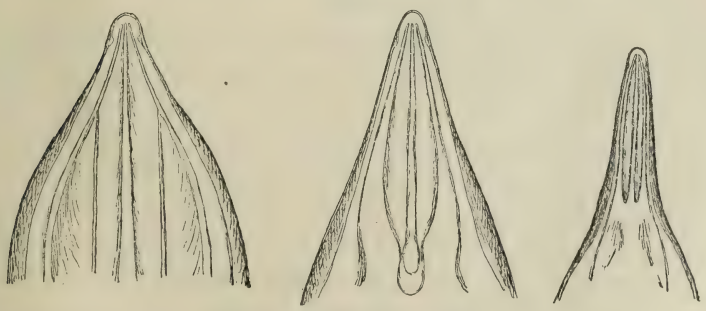
Prof. P. P. Sushkin gave a *résumé* of the taxonomical results of his morphological studies of the Fringillidæ and

allied groups. The family Fringillidæ, as judged by the characters exhibited by the bony palate, the syrinx, and the external features of the horny palate, proves to consist of three distinct divisions which may be named the Cardueline, the Passerine, and the Emberizine.

(1) The Cardueline division may be divided into three branches as follows: (*a*) includes, as far as one can judge from the genera examined, only one genus—*Fringilla*; (*b*), which is purely American, comprises the Cardinaline section (*Richmondena*, *Cyanocompsa*, *Oryzoborus*); while (*c*), mainly Palæarctic and Ethiopian, includes the rest, viz., *Carduelis*, *Carpodacus*, and *Coccothraustes*.

(2) The Passerine division, apart from peculiarities of anatomical structure, differs from the others in the moulting of the juvenile quills and tail-feathers in the first autumn, as well as in the construction of dome-shaped nests, and includes the genera *Passer*, *Gymnorhis*, *Petronia*, *Pyrgilauda*, *Montifringilla* (*alpicola* and *nivalis*), while

(3) The Emberizine division comprises a number of genera—Palæarctic, Ethiopian, Nearctic, and Neotropical, the American genera forming a group by themselves.



Sketches of Soft Palates of
Carpodacus erythrinus, *Passer domesticus*, *Emberiza citrinella*.

In regard to relationships to other neighbouring families the Passerine division must be referred, from its anatomy, moults, and the construction of the nest to the Ploceidæ, probably as a subfamily.

The Emberizine division proves to have relations or

affinities with (*a*) the Tanagridæ, of which some are to be transferred to the Emberizæ, (*b*) the Icteridæ of which the least specialized forms like *Molothrus* are with difficulty distinguishable, (*c*) the Cœrebidæ, in which family the structure of the tongues is only an exaggeration of the features to be found in the Emberizine division; while the osteological features are extremely close. The Cardueline division is more closely related to the Ploceo-Passerine group than to the Emberizine; and the Drepanididæ seem to present another related group.

These relations may be expressed by the following scheme :—

Superfamily *Emberizoidei*.
- Icteridæ.
- Cœrebidæ.
- Tanagridæ.
- Emberizidæ.

Superfamily *Fringilloidei*.
- Fringillidæ (Fringillinæ, Cardinalinæ, Carduelinæ).
- Ploceidæ (Passerinæ, Ploceinæ, Viduinæ).
- Drepanididæ.

In regard to some difficult cases, *Loxia* belongs to the Carduelinæ; *Montifringilla* of the Cat. Brit. Mus. is composed of six species belonging to the Passerinæ, and the rest belong to the Carduelinæ. *Nesospiza*, of Tristan d'Acunha, shows unquestionable affinities to the primitive American Emberizidæ. *Pitylus* and *Saltator* are thick-billed Tanagers. *Chaunoproctus* seems to belong to the Cardinalinæ, while the Mniotiltidæ have nothing to do with the whole assemblage.

The independent appearance of similar features in non-related forms is of very frequent occurrence. But morphological similarities of this kind are always, in our case, of adaptive origin, and must be classed as convergences and not as parallelisms. True parallelisms have been observed only in coloration.

In the discussion which followed, Dr. P. R. Lowe remarked that no one would realize better than such an eminent zoologist as Prof. Sushkin that in any classification the use of characters based on modifications due to feeding-habits was not so reliable as the employment of anatomical characters, not so prone to be affected—such, for instance, as those of the bony palate. He thought that most ornithologists would be surprised at the inclusion of the Icteridæ and Cœrebidæ with the Buntings and of the Drepanididæ with the true Finches.

Professor Sushkin exhibited some eggs collected by himself in the Altai district and N.W. Mongolia, and sent by his correspondent from Lower Tunguzka, 60° N. lat., some of which are believed to be undescribed.

A clutch of 5 eggs of *Luscinia sibilans*, taken 18. vii. 1912 at Jeletzkoie, N.E. Altai. In character these eggs were not unlike those of the genus *Saxicola*, being pale yellowish-grey with little gloss in ground-colour, faintly speckled with fine brown stippling, chiefly at the big end. Average size of clutch 18·54 × 13·76 mm.

A clutch of 2 eggs of *Budytes flava leucocephala*, taken on 13. vii. 1914 at Lake Achit Noor, Bassin of Kobdo, N.W. Mongolia, are bluish-grey in ground, marbled and speckled all over with grey-brown. Size 19·7 × 13·7 and 19·2 × 13·6 mm.

A clutch of 5 eggs of *Emberiza spodocephala spodocephala* from Lower Tunguzka were streaked and marbled all over with brown, with innumerable finer spotting and streaks on a greenish-grey ground, with some gloss on the surface. Average size of 5 eggs 18·9 × 15·1 mm.

A clutch of 4 eggs of *Emberiza godlewskii godlewskii* from Central Altai, Katun river, was of the blue type, with interlacing blackish lines and spots.

A clutch of 5 eggs of *Turdus s. sibiricus* from Lower Tunguzka averaged 28·18 × 20·86 mm., and resembled those of the better-known Japanese race.

Three eggs of *Oidemia stejnegeri* from the Plateau of

Chulyshman, Russian Altai, taken 12. vii. 1914, are warm reddish-buff in colour, and average 69·1 × 45·3 (dimensions and description by Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain)

Prof. Sushkin also exhibited skins of *Budytes flava leucocephala*, whose breeding-grounds have been discovered by him at Lake Achit Noor, N.W. Mongolia, and of *Leucosticte margaritacea*, a mountain Finch with a very restricted range, found only in the S.E. corner of the Russian Altai and on one of the summits of Eastern Tarbagatai.

Mr. Edgar Chance criticised the remarks of Mr. Bunyard made in the last number of the 'Bulletin' in connection with the Cuckoo's method of depositing her egg in the nest of the foster-parent. After some discussion it was suggested that this question be referred to independent witnesses for investigation.

It was finally decided that the matter should be reconsidered by the Committee*.

Dr. G. C. Low exhibited a series of Dunlin skins (*Calidris alpina alpina*), and made some remarks upon the validity of the race *C. a. schinzii*. The birds were obtained at the mouth of the Tay in Scotland on the 29th August, 1924, most of them being young birds in their first season, and just changing from summer to winter plumage. They were collected with a view of determining which race of Dunlin is usually met with on the East Coast of Scotland. Dr. C. B. Ticehurst, on examining them, had no hesitation in saying that they were *C. a. alpina* and not *C. a. schinzii*.

There do not appear to be very strong claims for the

* [*Editor's Footnote.*—The Committee have since considered this matter and have appointed Dr. Percy R. Lowe, Dr. G. C. Low, Mr. C. Oldham, and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed to make arrangements with Mr. Bunyard and Mr. Scholey, or any others, with a view to securing evidence as to the method of deposition of the egg of the Common Cuckoo. The Committee also recommended that in the meantime no further discussion of this question, on the evidence at present available, be published in the pages of the 'Bulletin.']

recognition of the latter as a good race, as its area of distribution coincides closely with that of *C. a. alpina*, the measurements of the two overlap markedly, and they can only be separated from each other when in breeding-plumage, the winter birds and juveniles being indistinguishable. The moults also, according to Mrs. Meinertzhagen, are the same. The B. O. U. Committee, however, I understand, have decided, after discussion, to admit it as a good race.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following :—

Ethelornis mouki keri, new name for *Gerygone pallida* North, not Finsch.

Mastersornis ruficollis gouldi, new name for *Myiagra laterostris* Gould, not Swainson.

Gelochelidon nilotica cloatesi, new name for the bird figured in my 'Birds of Australia,' vol. ii. plate 104, and described on p. 327, pt. 3, September 20th, 1912. Type-locality, Point Cloates, Mid-West Australia.

Mr. David Bannerman forwarded the description of a new *Bradornis*, which he was describing at the request of Sir Frederick Jackson from his private collection :—

Bradornis bafirawari, sp. nov.

Adult male and female. Entire upper surface from the forehead to the rump grey-brown, the rump slightly washed with buff. Primaries and secondaries and major coverts dusky brown, the secondaries and major coverts fringed with white on the outer web. Tail like the primaries in colour. Lores and eyebrow white, a dusky patch immediately in front of the eye, and a narrow white line below the eye. Chin and throat white ; the breast, sides, and flanks greyish, washed with buff. Belly and under tail-coverts pure white. Thighs white, streaked with brown. Under wing-coverts almost white, with a few brownish feathers along the elbow.

The bill, which is long and fine, measures 12–13 mm. (exposed culmen). Wing 77–79, tail 69–70, tarsus 20–22 mm.

A female which is probably not quite adult is distinctly smaller—wing 73, tail 63 mm.

Habitat. The specimens were all collected at Wajheir (3000 ft.), 100 miles N.E. of the Lorian Swam, Juba Land Province.

Obs. In general coloration this new bird resembles most nearly *B. griseus*, but it may be distinguished easily from that species by the white under wing-coverts and the long fine bill—characters which I have failed to find in any other form. Both Dr. Stresemann and Professor Neumann have examined this bird, and inform me that they know nothing like it in the Berlin Museum.

Note.—I name this bird at the request of Sir Frederick Jackson after his native collector Bafirawar, who obtained it. Sir Frederick has kindly presented the type (♂ ad., Wajheir, 3000 ft., 7. xi. 10) to the British Museum.

NOTICE.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 10th of December, 1924, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested **to give notice beforehand** to the Editor, Dr. Percy R. Lowe, at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands **not later than at the meeting** MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.* George C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

15 DEC. 1924
BRITISH MUSEUM
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NATURAL HISTORY

31 DEC. 1924

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCXCII.

The two-hundred-and-eighty-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, December 10th, 1924.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—W. Shore Baily; E. C. Stuart Baker; G. Brown; P. F. Bunyard; E. P. Chance; Major R. E. Cheesman; Col. Stephenson R. Clarke; Capt. H. L. Cochrane; Major-General Sir Percy Cox; A. H. Evans; J. M. Fleming; Major S. S. Flower; The Hon. Masauji Hachisuka; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. E. Hartert; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); Admiral H. Lynes; C. E. Mackworth-Praed; J. H. McNeile; G. M. Mathews; Colonel R. Meinertzhagen; D. W. Musselwhite; C. Oldham; F. R. Ratcliff; B. B. Rivière; W. L. Sclater; H. Stevens; Capt. H. F. Stoneham; W. H. Thorpe; B. W. Tucker; J. Sladen-Wing.

Guests:—P. B. Length; W. W. A. Phillips; G. T. Stoneham; Prince N. Taka-Tsukasa; Marquis of Tavistock; H. J. Waller.

Mr. W. L. Sclater communicated the following note on the validity of the species

Oreomyias riisi.

So long ago as 1857 Dr. Hartlaub described (Syst. Orn. Westafr. p. 96) a Flycatcher, stated to have been obtained by the Swiss Collector Riis at Aguapim, a district of the Gold Coast, under the name *Muscicapa riisi*. The single example is in the Basle Museum, and has, so far as I can ascertain, remained unique to this day, though Reichenow in 1902 proposed a new genus *Oreomyias* for its reception.

Through the great courtesy and kindness of Dr. Jean Roux, Curator of the Museum of Natural History at Basle, I have had the privilege of examining this unique specimen.

The bird had been mounted, and is now dismounted and in a somewhat worn condition. It shows no likeness to any African bird with which I am acquainted, but on showing the bird to Mr. Wells he suggested that it closely resembled the female of *Cyornis magnirostris*, a well-known Himalayan bird. The only point in which it differed was in the length of the tarsi, which were considerably longer, but a careful examination of the legs of the Basle specimen revealed the fact that they had been reversed, and it seems probable that when the bird was mounted many years ago a pair of legs which did not belong to it may have been inserted in place of the rightful ones, and that some mistake in the labelling may have occurred at the same time.

At any rate, until a second example of a bird resembling the type of *Oreomyias riisi* is secured from the Gold Coast Colony, I consider that it will be best to regard it as a synonym of *Cyornis magnirostris* (Blyth).

Mr. W. L. Sclater also made some observations on the genus *Pedilorhynchus* :—

This genus was formed by Reichenow (Journ. Orn. 1892, p. 34) for a little bluish Flycatcher obtained by Stuhlmann at Mangongo, near Kampala, which he named *Pedilorhynchus stulhmanni*.

That the genus is a good one and is quite distinct

from *Alseonax* is proved by its unspotted nestling, apart from the characters of the rounded tail and the extraordinarily broad bill.

An examination of the ample material in the British Museum collection leads me to believe that four races can be distinguished as follows :—

P. COMITATUS COMITATUS [*Butalis comitatus*, Cassin, Pr. Acad. Philad. 1857, p. 35 : Muni River, Gaboon].

With a smaller bill averaging 80 mm. from the nostril to the tip, a clearly marked white chin and throat, a somewhat ill-defined slaty band across the breast, and a good deal of white on the abdomen.

Distr. Gaboon, Portuguese Guinea (Landana) and northern Angola (N'Dalla Tando).

P. COMITATUS CAMERUNENSIS [*Pedilorhynchus stulhmanni camerunensis* Reichenow, Journ. für Orn. 1892, p. 183 : Buea, Cameroon Mt.].

Bill perhaps averaging slightly larger ; the white throat less well defined and the whole of the rest of the underparts bluish-slaty, hardly any white on the abdomen.

Distr. Cameroon.

P. COMITATUS STUHLMANNI [*P. stuhlmanni* Reichenow, Journ. für Orn. 1892, pp. 34, 132, pl. i. fig. 1 : Mangongo, near Kampala].

Resembling the typical race in having a darker breast-band and a good deal of white on the abdomen and with a distinctly larger bill.

Distribution. Uganda, Semliki Valley, the Uele district (Bellima [*Emin*], Gudima River [*Alexander*]).

P. comitatus aximensis, subsp. n.

This race is far the most distinct, as it has much more extended white on the abdomen generally with a slight tawny or fulvous wash ; the white on the throat is well-marked and the slaty band across the chest is distinctly paler and greyer than that in the Uganda and typical races.

Type in the British Museum, a male from Axim, Gold Coast, 27 Febr., 1911 (*Willoughby P. Lowe*). Reg. no. 1911. 12. 18. 219.

Distr. Only known from the Gold Coast Colony ; eight other examples in the British Museum collected by Ussher, Aubinn, Blissett, and B. Alexander.

The wing-measurements of all the races vary from 60–65 mm., that of the type of *P. c. aximensis* is 64 mm.

Dr. Ernst Hartert described a new Hornbill as follows :—

Rhyticeros plicatus mendanæ, subsp. nov.

The males of *Rh. plicatus* from the Solomon Islands differ from those of *Rh. plicatus ruficollis* from Waigiou, New Guinea, and adjacent islands, in having the neck above and below paler, being brownish-golden buff instead of pale chestnut in a varying degree. They are, thus, much lighter than males of *Rh. plicatus plicatus* from Ceram, in which the neck is constantly of a true chestnut (*cf.* Nov. Zool. 1914, pp. 99–100). The bare throat-patch is also smaller than in *Rh. p. ruficollis*. I therefore separate the Solomon Islands form, naming it in remembrance of Mendana, the discoverer of the group, which he named the Solomon Islands, having the idea that they were the islands from whence Solomon derived his gold. At Tring we have specimens from Guadalcanar, Isabel, and Fauro in the Solomon group, and there is one from the Shortland Islands in the British Museum. I had a large series of *Rh. p. ruficollis* for comparison.

Hab. Solomon Islands.

Type in the Tring Museum. ♂ ad. Guadalcanar, 1. v. 1901. A. S. Meek Coll. No. 3065.

The Hon. Masauji Hachisuka exhibited, on behalf of Prince N. Taka-Tsukasa, an example of *Pseudotadorna cristata* Kuroda, and said :—

This very interesting Duck was obtained in April 1877 near Vladivostok, and is now preserved in the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen. The specimen was kindly sent over to the Natural History Museum of South Kensington, through the kindness of the Vice-Inspector, Mr. R.

Hörring, in order that it might be examined by Prince Taka-Tsukasa.

The same specimen was once before sent here to Mr. Sclater for determination. Mr. Sclater then gave it as his opinion (P. Z. S. 1890, p. 1, pl. i.) that the bird was a hybrid between the Ruddy Sheldrake and the Falcated Teal.

In 1916, Dr. Kuroda obtained a second specimen at Naktung River, near Fusan, Corea. He has described it in 'Tori' (The Aves), vol. ii. no. 9, page 239, as a *new genus and species*, naming it *Pseudotadorna cristata*.

When he described this bird Dr. Kuroda thought it might be a male, bnt shortly afterwards Mr. Uchida found a picture which is preserved by Viscount Matsudaira, and which he thought might well be the male of the Duck described by Dr. Kuroda. He examined some very old Japanese books and came across a description of this bird in a book called "Kanbunkinpu." From this he found that the bird shown in Viscount Matsudaira's picture is the male and the Kuroda specimen the female of the same species. The most interesting point, however, is that this rare Duck was known to the Japanese nearly 200 years ago. In more than one avicultural book there are drawings of a male and a female of the bird called "Chosen-oshi," meaning Corean Mandalene Duck. It does not appear from these books that the bird was particularly rare—in fact, it was often imported as an aviary bird.

Since then two or three other pictures of these birds have been found, and the two are always shown as a pair.

On this ground, and also because the Kuroda specimen has a pale-coloured bill and feet, as well as a different pattern of wavy black and white cross-bars, I am strongly of opinion that the bird is not a hybrid as the late Mr. Sclater considered, but a real species as Dr. Kuroda thinks.

This summer, Dr. Kuroda succeeded in obtaining a supposed male specimen of this Duck, which wholly agrees with the description in the old book ('Kanbunkinpu'), and he described the specimen in 'Tori,' vol. iv. no. 18, p. 181, 1924).

In the discussion following, Dr. E. Hartert said that the question if the so-called *Pseudotadorna cristata* was a hybrid, as supposed by P. L. Sclater in 1890, or a distinct species was in his opinion by no means decided. It was rather suspicious that since 1890 only three specimens should have been obtained in countries where, after all, a lot of collecting had been done. The reports of the frequency in olden times were not scientific records, and could not be taken too seriously. He also called attention to the fact that hybrids between *Nyroca ferina* and *Nyroca nyroca* were described in Europe as "*Fuligula homeyeri*," and hybrids between *Bucephala clangula* and *Mergus albellus* as *Mergus anatarius*, and that it took some time before their real nature was generally understood. He recommended experiments in pairing *Casarca ferruginea* with *Anas falcata*.

Errata (vol. xlv. p. 92) :—

Cyornis pallipes bannermani.

Line 12, *for* ♀ *read* ♂.

NOTICE.

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Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

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(Signed)

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.* George C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

21 DEC 1924

Bird Room.

1 MAR 1925
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCXCIII.

The two-hundred-and-eighty-ninth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, January 14th, 1925.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—W. Shore Baily; C. E. Baker; D. A. Bannerman; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; Hon. G. L. Charteris; Major R. E. Cheesman; J. P. S. Clarke; R. H. Deane; Capt. F. W. Dewhurst; A. Ezra; Rev. J. R. Hale; S. H. Hart; Dr. E. Hartert; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); N. Lucas; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Lt.-Col. H. Magrath; G. M. Mathews; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; C. B. Rickett; C. H. Roper; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; Major A. G. L. Sladen; H. Stevens; Capt. H. F. Stoneham; W. H. Thorpe; B. W. Tucker; E. Valpy; J. Sladen-Wing; C. de Worms.

Guests:—Count Bobrinskoy; W. H. Hale; J. P. R. Hale; Capt. R. G. Hingston; A. Mathews; B. E. Stoneham.

Mr. W. L. Sclater offered the following revision of the genus *Batis* :—

Since the publication of Reichenow's 'Vögel Afrikas' a large number of additional species and races of this genus have been described, and a revision of the genus is certainly required. This I have endeavoured to give in the following synopsis. Since 1904, the only attempt at a revision was that of Neumann (Journ. f. Orn. 1907, pp. 348–358), of which I have made constant use.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. H. Grote of Berlin for some notes on *Batis reichenowi* and *B. mystica*, two species which are not in the collection of the Natural History Museum, and to Dr. E. Stresemann for information in regard to the type-locality of *B. soror*.

Genus Batis Boie.

Batis Boie, Isis, 1833, col. 880 : type by subsequent designation (Sharpe, Cat. Bds. B.M .iv. p. 133, 1879), *Batis capensis*.

Batis capensis capensis [*Muscicapa capensis* Linn. Syst. Nat. 12th ed. i. p. 327, 1766 : Cape of Good Hope].

Distr. South Africa from the Cape Town neighbourhood along the southern coastal portions of Cape Province to Natal, Zululand, and the eastern portion of the Transvaal.

Batis capensis erythrophthalma [*B. erythrophthalma* Swynnerton, Bull. B. O. C. xix. p. 109, 1907 : Chirinda, S. Rhodesia].

Distr. The Melsetter district of Southern Rhodesia.

Only distinguished from the typical race by its smaller size and by its iris, which is red or partially red, not yellow.

Batis capensis dimorpha [*Pachyprora dimorpha* Shelley, Ibis, 1893, p. 18 : Milanji Plateau].

Distr. Nyasaland, apparently on the high plateau only.

This race only differs from *B. c. capensis* in having the flanks of the male white without rufous.

Batis reichenowi Grote, Orn. Monatsb. xix. p. 162 (1911): Mikindani in the Lindi district of Tanganyika Territory.

Distr. Only known from the type-locality.

The male resembles *B. c. dimorpha*. The female appears to resemble that of *B. mixta*, but is much paler below with a white throat and belly, and only a pale narrow rufous band across the breast and a slight wash of the same colour on the flanks (see J. f. O. 1912, pl. viii. fig. 1).

Batis mixta [*Pachyprora mixta* Shelley, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1889, p. 359, pl. xl.: Kilimanjaro at 6000–7000 ft.].

Distr. Kilimanjaro, Simba hills, and Usambara (Wilhelmstal) in Tanganyika Territory.

This species can be at once distinguished by its extraordinarily short tail.

Batis minulla [*Platysteira minulla* Bocage, Jorn. Lisboa, v. p. 37, 1874 : Biballa].

Distr. Angola northwards to Landana (Portuguese Congo).

This and the next species are superficially like the "*minor*" group, but can at once be separated by the white under wing-coverts.

Batis poensis [*B. poensis* Alexander, Bull. B. O. C. xiii. p. 34, 1903 : Bakaki, Fernando Po].

Distr. Fernando Po, Gold Coast, Southern Nigeria, and Cameroon.

Batis minima [*Platystira minima* J. & E. Verreaux, Rev. Mag. Zool. 1855, p. 219 : Gaboon].

Distr. Confined to Gaboon.

This, one of the smallest species, is a rare one, and the female is unknown, but it probably resembles the male, as is also probably the case with *B. ituriensis* and certainly with *B. diops*.

Batis ituriensis [*B. ituriensis* Chapin, Amer. Mus. Nov. no. 7, p. 5, fig. 2, 1921 : Gamangui, Ituri distr.].

Distr. Only known from the type from the N.E. Belgian Congo.

The form only differs from the preceding by having a black instead of an ashy-black chest-band. The female is unknown, but probably resembles the male.

Batis diops [*B. diops* Jackson, Bull. B. O. C. xv. p. 38, 1905 : Ruwenzori].

Distr. Ruwenzori and the volcanic mountain region of the Kivu district, where it was obtained recently by Gyldenstolpe. The sexes are undoubtedly similar. Probably this and the two preceding species should form a little group by themselves.

Batis molitor molitor [*Muscicapa molitor* Hahn & Küster, Vög. aus Asien, Lief. xx. pl. 2, 1850 : South Africa, *i. e.* Kaffirland (see Neumann, J. f. Orn. 1907, p. 356)].

Distr. Eastern Cape Province, Natal, Transvaal, Bechuanaland, and Damaraland.

Batis molitor soror [*B. puella soror* Reichenow, Vög. Afr. ii. p. 485, 1903 : Quilimane (see J. f. Orn. 1889, p. 278)].

Distr. Portuguese East Africa, the lower valley of the Zambesi including the Shire valley and southern Nyasaland, and north along the coast to Zanzibar.

This race is distinguished by the narrower black breast-band in the male and the much paler tawny breast-band and chin-spot in the female. I consider *B. molitor littoralis* Neumann, J. f. Orn. 1907, p. 350 (Zanzibar Island), and *B. soror pallidigula* v. Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xli. p. 103, 1921 : Lumbo, Mozambique, as indistinguishable.

Batis molitor puella [*Batis puella* Reichenow, Jahrb. Hamburg Wissensch. Anst. x. 1te Heft. p. 125, 1893 : type in the Berlin Museum from Bussisi, S. shore of Victoria Nyanza.

Distr. Uganda, the Kivu district of the Belgian Congo and Kenya Colony from Ruwenzori, Mt. Elgon, and the Northern Guaso Nyiro south to Lake Nyasa, the upper valley of the Zambesi and Angola, including Northern Rhodesia and Katanga. Not the coastal districts of Eastern Africa.

This race differs from *B. m. molitor* in having the breast-

band slightly narrower in both sexes, while in the female it is of a very rich chocolate-brown, darker than that of either *molitor* or *soror*.

I can find no distinctive features in *B. m. taruensis* v. Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xli. p. 103, 1921 : Maungu, Kenya Colony, the type of which I have examined, nor do I think *B. m. montana* Sjöstedt, Kilimandjaro Meru Exped. iii. p. 109, 1908 : Kilimanjaro, at 6000 ft., is separable.

Batis pririt [*Muscicapa pririt* Vieillot, N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. xxi. p. 486, 1818 : Lower Orange River, *ex* Levaillant].

Distr. Benguella through Damaraland to Little Namaqualand and east to the western borders of the Orange Free State Province and to Colesberg in Cape Province.

The male of this species can only be distinguished from that of *B. m. molitor* by its smaller size. In the female the chin and chest is washed with pale orange-rufous, and there is no definite breast-band as in *B. molitor*. In southern Angola and northern Damaraland the two forms, *B. m. molitor* and *B. pririt*, are apparently found side by side. Had it not been for this, *pririt* might very well have been considered a subspecies of *molitor*.

Batis minor minor [*B. orientalis minor* Erlanger, Orn. Monatsb. 1901, p. 181 : Salole, Juba River].

Distr. Southern Somaliland.

I follow Neumann (J. f. Orn. 1917, p. 352) in ranging the species from north-eastern Africa in two groups—the *B. orientalis* group with a grey crown and the *B. minor* group with a black crown, though I am inclined to think that they should all form one widespread species when we know more of them. I have seen no examples of the present race, the type of which is in the Erlanger Collection.

Batis minor erlangeri [*B. m. erlangeri* Neumann, J. f. Orn. 1917, p. 353 : Gara Mulata, near Harrar].

Distr. From Harrar south-westwards to the Abyssinian lake-district and the borders of the Sudan.

Very similar to *B. m. minor*, but slightly larger : wing 60–67, against 50–55 mm.

Batis minor suahelicus [*B. m. suahelicus* Neumann, J. f. Orn. 1907, p. 353: German East Africa].

Distr. Coastal districts of Eastern Africa from Lamu to Dar es Salaam.

Like *B. m. erlangeri*, but the crown with metallic-black; the breast-band of the female narrower and slightly paler: wing 55 to 60 mm.

Batis minor nyanzæ [*B. m. nyanzæ* Neumann, J. f. Orn. 1907, p. 354: Kwa Mtessa, Uganda].

Distr. The Upper White Nile district south of Malakal and the central and southern districts of the Bahr el Ghazal south to Uganda and Tanganyika Territory (Morogoro distr.).

This race is very close to *suahelicus*, but a little larger: wing 60–65 mm. It is a dark-backed race as compared to the next one.

Batis minor chadensis [*B. chadensis* Alexander, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. p. 105, 1908: Arrigi, Lake Chad].

Distr. The northerly parts of Northern Nigeria and Lake Chad east through Dafur and Kordofan to lower part of the White Nile Valley, the Blue Nile, and the Red Sea Province of the Egyptian Sudan.

This race is distinguished by its paler back in both sexes, and probably intergrades at its eastern borders with *B. orientalis*.

Batis minor batesi [*B. bella batesi* Bannerman, Bull. B. O. C. xliv. p. 4, 1923: Bamenda, Cameroon Highlands].

Distr. Only known from the two original examples obtained by Mr. Bates.

This race is characterized by its larger bill and broad chest-band, which in the female is paler than that of *B. m. nyanzæ*, while it has the darker back of the last-named form.

Batis minor congoensis [*Batis minor congoensis* Neumann, J. f. Orn. 1907, p. 354: Ngombi on the Lower Congo].

Distr. The lower valley of the Congo, Portuguese Congo, and northern Angola.

This race appears to be very doubtfully separable from *B. m. nyanzæ*.

Batis orientalis orientalis [*Platystira orientalis* Heuglin, Orn. Nordost-Afr. i. p. 449, 1871 : Modat valley, Bogosland (see Neumann, J. f. Orn. 1907, p. 350)].

Distr. Abyssinia and Eritrea, but not the central high plateau, north to Erkowit in the Red Sea Province of the Sudan, south to Shoa and the Hawash Country.

Batis orientalis bella [*Pachyprora bella* Elliot, Field Col. Mus. Publ. Orn. Chicago, i. p. 47, 1897 : Hullier, Somaliland].

Distr. Northern Somaliland and the Galla Country.

This race is hardly separable from the preceding, the crown is perhaps a shade darker grey and the white spots on the rump larger and more conspicuous.

Batis orientalis somaliensis Neumann, J. f. Orn. 1907, p. 357 : Denek River, is a synonym.

Through the courtesy of Dr. C. E. Hellmayr, Curator of Birds, Field Museum, Chicago, I have been able to examine the type of Elliot's *bella*, which is a grey-headed form, so that his name takes precedence of that of Neumann for this race.

Batis orientalis perkeo [*Batis perkeo* Neumann, J. f. Orn. 1907, p. 352 : Darassam, Gurra, Gallaland].

Distr. Southern Somaliland, Jubaland, Northern Frontier Province of Kenya Colony, and the adjoining districts of Abyssinia.

Batis mystica [Neumann, J. f. Orn. 1907, p. 594: Kikumbulin, Ukamba].

This species is founded on two males only, the type and another example, obtained in Makindu also in Ukamba Province of Kenya Colony. It appears to be allied to *B. orientalis*, but has little or no white edging to the tail-feathers.

Batis senegalensis [*Muscicapa senegalensis* Linnæus, Syst. Nat. 12th ed. i. p. 327, 1766 : Senegal].

Distr. Senegal to the Gold Coast, Togoland and Nigeria, east to Kaga Djirri in the Shari–Ubangi district.

The females of this form can be at once distinguished by the

rufous wash over the white on the crown, nape, and wings, and by the olive-brown tinge of the back. The males are hardly distinguishable from those of the *B. minor* group. *B. s. togoensis* appears to be a synonym (see Bannerman, Rev. Zool. Afr. ix. p. 417).

Batis fratrum [*Pachyprora fratrum* Shelley, Ibis, 1900, p. 522 : Zululand].

Distr. Zululand, north to the Beira district.

This species is at once distinguished by the fact that the male never has a black chest-band.

Batis sheppardi Haagner, Ann. Transvaal Mus. i. p. 179, pl. iii. figs. 1, 2, 1909 : Mzimbiti near Beira, is a synonym (see Roberts, Ann. Transvaal Mus. iv. p. 171).

Key of the Species.

(*a*) Males (except *B. fratrum*) with a black breast-band.

1.	Under wing-coverts white edged with black..	2.
	Under wing-coverts black throughout	10.
2.	With rusty-red on the flanks	3.
	Flanks without rusty-red	4.
3.	Larger, iris yellow.....	*capensis.*
	Smaller, iris red	*erythrophthalma.*
4.	No white spot on the lores or white eyebrow .	5.
	White spots on the lores or forehead	6.
5.	Tail longer, over 40 mm.	*dimorpha.*
	Tail very short, under 40 mm.....	*mixta.*
6.	A distinct nuchal spot	7.
	No nuchal spot, sexes alike	8.
7.	Crown grey, like the back	*minulla.*
	Crown black, contrasting with the back	*poensis.*
8.	Larger, wing over 60 mm.	*diops*, ♂ & ♀.
	Smaller, wing under 50 mm.	9.
9.	Breast-band ashy-black	*minima*, ♂ & ♀ ?
	Breast-band black	*ituriensis*, ♂ & ♀ ?
10.	With little white on the head only, a frontal spot and a line to the eye	11.
	With more white on the head, generally surrounding the crown and forming a nuchal spot	12.

11. Larger, wing about 60 mm. ..... *molitor.*
Smaller, wing about 55 mm. ..... *pririt.*
12. Crown grey, like the back ..... *orientalis* and subspecies.
Crown dusky to black, contrasting with back ..... *minor, senegalensis,* and subspecies.

(*b*) Females with breast-band if present rufous, not black (including *B. fratrum*, both sexes).

1. Under wing-coverts white, with a black edging along the outer edge..... 2.
Under wing-coverts black ..... 6.
2. Secondaries and wing-coverts edged with rufous, not white.
Secondaries and wing-coverts edged with white, not rufous; chin white; chest, but not flanks, rufous ..... *fratrum*, ♂.
3. Underparts rich rufous, including chin and flanks; chest-band fairly well defined .... [*erythromorpha.* *capensis dimorpha*
Underparts pale rufous; chest-band hardly definitely defined ..... 4.
Chest-band very well marked, no rufous on chin or flanks ..... 5.
4. Back washed with olivaceous, larger, wing about 60 mm..... *mixta.*
Back grey, like the crown, smaller, wing about 50 mm. ..... *fratrum*, ♀.
5. Chest-band broad and well defined, rich rufous; crown grey like back ..... *minulla.*
Chest-band narrower and very dark chestnut; crown dusky to black, contrasting with back ..... *poensis.*
6. A distinct chin-patch as well as a chest-band, separated by a white band ..... [subspecies. *molitor* and
Chin and chest pale tawny, no band between . *pririt.*
No chin-patch, only a well-defined chest-band ..... 7.
7. Crown grey, back strongly spotted with white, chest-band lighter and more tawny ..... [subspecies. *orientalis* and
Crown dusky, back but slightly spotted, chest-band darker and more chocolate and narrower ..... [subspecies. *minor* and
Crown dusky, crown-stripes tawny not white; chest-band paler tawny and wider ..... *senegalensis.*

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker described the following new subspecies of Oriental birds :—

Ploceus manyar peguensis, subsp. nov.

This race differs from both *P. m. flaviceps* and *P. m. striatus* in being much more richly coloured above, with broader deeper rufous edges to the feathers ; below the colour is a deeper fulvous, and the striæ are broader, blacker, and more numerous. From typical *P. manyar manyar* it differs in being a little more rufous above, but principally in having far more striæ below, these descending well on to the abdomen and flanks, and in having a less well-defined rufous breast. In *P. m. manyar* the breast is much more rufous than the abdomen and flanks, and the striæ are practically confined to the breast alone.

Measurements as in the other races.

Distribution. Himalayan Terai from Garhwal to Eastern Assam; Northern Indian Plains in suitable localities to Bengal and North Orissa ; Burma south to Tavoy ; Shan States, Siam, Yunnan, and Annam.

Type, in the British Museum, ♂, Pegu (*E. W. Oates*). Reg. No. 97.12.10. 717.

Ploceus manyar striatus Blyth, J. A. S. B. xi. p. 873 (1842) (Sind).

This form must also be recognized. It is rather paler than *P. m. flaviceps* above and below, the striæ are fewer and more narrow, and the black of the throat does not descend on to the breast.

Distribution. Sind, Punjab, and N.W. Frontier.

Munia malacca orientalis, subsp. nov.

Similar to *M. m. malacca*, but more richly coloured above—a deeper brighter chestnut. Underparts generally less black on the abdomen.

Measurements as in *M. m. malacca*.

Distribution. Southern India, north to the Central Provinces and west to Coorg, Mysore, and the Nilgiris.

Type, ♂, 87.7.1.1937. Hume, Natural History Museum.

Type-locality. Madras.

Linnæus gives the localities for his *Loxia malacca* as China, Java, and Malacca. As no race of *M. malacca* occurs in any of these countries, I designate the type-locality as Belgaum, West India.

Uroloncha striata subsquamicollis, subsp. nov.

Differing from *U. s. striata*, *U. s. fumigata*, and *U. s. semistriata* in having the abdomen strongly streaked throughout with blackish brown. From *U. s. acuticauda* it differs in having the underparts more grey and more heavily striated ; the upper parts are darker and the fulvous edging to the feathers of the breast are more developed, giving this part a distinctly squamated appearance. From *U. s. squamiceps* it can be distinguished by the dark brown, not rufous-brown lower breast, and by less bright and broad edging to the feathers of both the breast and neck.

Type, in the British Museum, ♂, Bankasoon, 2nd May, 1877 (*W. Davison*), Hume coll. Reg. No. 87.7.1. 2347.

Type-locality. Bankasoon, Tenasserim.

Distribution. Burma from Tounghoo South to Singapore and Sumatra ; Siam from Bangkok, or even further North, to the extreme South ; Cochin China (Tonkin), Hainan, and Formosa. This appears also to be the form found in S. Yunnan and Annam.

Major A. G. L. Sladen exhibited, on behalf of Capt. H. A. Gilbert, some photographs of the Golden Plover in breeding-plumage. Three of these, taken in Sutherlandshire, showed birds in the usual plumage with a conspicuous dark patch on the breast, a pronounced eye-stripe, and a white frontal band across the forehead. The fourth, taken in mid-Wales, showed a bird lacking the eye-stripe and frontal band, and with only a few dark feathers on the breast. All the photographs showed birds incubating or approaching their eggs.

It was not sought from these pictures to argue the likelihood of the mid-Wales bird being a subspecies, because in

any case the data were entirely insufficient for any such deduction, but the photographs were at least interesting as showing the amount of individual variation which might occur in breeding birds. It was hoped that Capt. Gilbert would be able to procure further pictures of the mid-Wales birds next year.

Lord Rothschild said the mid-Wales bird in the photograph was in his opinion a female, which, as a rule, was not so conspicuously marked as the male.

Major R. G. Hingston, I.M.S., gave a lantern demonstration illustrating some forms of bird-life met with on the last Mt. Everest Expedition (1923–24).

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 11th of February, 1925, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

The Subscription for 1924–1925—£1 1s. 0d.—became due on the 1st of October last Members who do not pay this by Banker's Order, or who have not already paid, will greatly oblige if they will send their remittance as soon as possible to the Treasurer, Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W.1.

The attention of Members is drawn to the fact that the March Meeting, which is held on Wednesday, March 11th, 1925, in conjunction with the British Ornithologists' Union, is devoted principally to the exhibition of lantern-slides. The Hon. Secretary will be very glad to hear from any Member who has slides to exhibit, in order that the necessary arrangements may be made.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Dr. Percy R. Lowe, at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands not later than at the meeting MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.* George C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

Bird Room

BRITISH MUSEUM
Z D
NATURAL HISTORY

13 MAR 1925
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCXCIV.

The two-hundred-and-ninetieth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, February 11th, 1925.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—W. Shore Baily; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; Major R. E. Cheesman; Major-Gen. Sir Percy Cox; R. H. Deane; A. H. Evans; A. Ezra; J. M. Fleming; Major S. S. Flower; The Hon. Masauji Hachisuka; Rev. J. R. Hale; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); C. W. Mackworth-Praed; J. H. McNeile; Dr. P. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo; Mrs. R. Meinertzhagen; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; R. H. Read; C. B. Rickett; D. Seth-Smith; H. Stevens; H. Kirke Swann; W. H. Thorpe; B. B. Tucker; J. Sladen Wing.

Guests:—E. Hindle; Prince Taka-Tsukasa; L. J. Turtle.

Mr. H. Kirke Swann made the following communication on the races of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaëtos*) :—

The number of existing forms of the Golden Eagle is a thorny problem which has occupied the attention of ornithologists for more than a century. Everyone knows that Linnæus described the Golden Eagle twice—firstly, under the name of *Falco chrysaëtos* (Syst. Nat. ed. 10, i. p. 88, 1758), and, secondly, under the name of *Falco fulvus* (*t. c.* p. 88). It is certain that the first description is that of the adult Scandinavian bird, because it is from the 'Fauna Svecica,' and it is equally certain that *Falco fulvus* was described from an immature bird, but there all certainty ends. The habitat of both birds is given as "Europe" in the 'Systema,' and the name *fulvus* has been treated by many writers as a synonym of *chrysaëtos*, because it was supposed to be the young of that bird, but, if this were really the case, one would expect that name to be also included in the 'Fauna Svecica.' This omission is the principal reason for supposing that the Linnean description of *fulvus* was based upon a bird Linnæus described as *fulvus* from some other part of Europe, and that this was the case may be seen by reading the two works cited by Linnæus. Willughby's "*chrysaëtos*," quoted by Linnæus, was most probably not the Scandinavian bird, but his Ring-tailed Eagle was certainly the British bird, as was also Ray's *Aquila fulva*, so that *Aquila fulvus* (Linn.) is ex Ray and is the correct name of the British race, irrespective of the fact that it was based upon an apparently immature bird, for Ray's localities (Derbyshire and Wales) are quite definite *.

Of course, the theory held by many writers of the past—for hundreds of years back, in fact—that the "ring-tailed" or immature bird was a different species is well known in modern times to be totally erroneous, but most writers have

* Although Willughby's "Golden Eagle with a white ring about its tail" was, of course, an immature bird, Ray, from whom the name and presumably the diagnosis are taken, described, not the parent bird, but the *young* bird in the Derbyshire nest, "almost adult and able to fly."

stumbled over that palpable fact and have jumped to the conclusion that therefore there was no difference in Golden Eagles from any part of the Palæarctic area. Yet many of the best continental ornithologists have endeavoured for the past hundred years to establish the fact that *Aquila chrysaëtos* was not the Golden Eagle of the greater part of Europe, and it is this fact that I am now going to demonstrate, although on rather different lines to those followed by past exponents of the supposed differences.

The battle for the rights of the various suppressed forms of Golden Eagle against the overshadowing claims of the Scandinavian bird may be said to have been commenced in 1815 by Temminck, who, in the first edition of his 'Manual' (p. 10), named the non-Scandinavian bird (that is, the *Falco fulvus* of post-Linnean authors) *Falco regalis*, pointing out that this was done to avoid future error. He was followed by numerous other Continental ornithologists, ending with Severtzow and Menzbier in our own times, but all, I think, fell into the same error of insisting upon the supposed different species either having a white base to the tail or having the basal portion of the body-feathers white at all ages—both of which characters, even if persistent in some particular race, are obviously juvenile characters in most Golden Eagles.

Unfortunately, the nomenclature of the Golden Eagles is in a most confused state, partly owing to the universal misapplication of the name *fulvus* of Linnæus and partly owing to an equally universal misconception of the correct forms of the species. In fact, of the older names, *chrysaëtos* may be regarded as the only fixed and definite one, owing to its being based upon the 'Fauna Svecica.'

Quite the most important contribution to the literature of the subject which appeared during the last century was, in my opinion, the treatise* of the Russian ornithologist, Dr. N. A. Severtzow, published posthumously by Menzbier

* 'Études sur les variations d'âge des Aquilinés paléarctiques et leur valeur taxonomique.'

in 1885–88 in the memoirs of the Natural History Society of Moscow *. Severtzow had a great knowledge of his subject and treated it in a most painstaking manner, and if he was wrong in some of his conclusions he was equally right in many others.

What Severtzow actually accomplished in the direction of straightening out the tangle of the Golden Eagles may be briefly summarised. He pointed out that *Aquila chrysaëtos* (Linn.) was confined to the northern regions and made a separate species of it. The other Golden Eagles he divided into three species, viz., *Aquila nobilis*, *Aquila fulva*, and *Aquila daphanea*, the first and last with one form each, while the second he divided into seven forms, viz.:—

1. *A. f. canadensis* (N. America), p. 179.
2. *A. f. kamtschatica* (Kamtschatka), p. 180.
3. *A. f. japonica* (Japan), p. 182.
4. *A. f. atlantica* (British Islands), p. 182.
5. *A. f. homeyeri* (Balearic Is. and Algeria), p. 184.
6. *A. f. regalis* (Central Europe), p. 185.
7. *A. f. barthelemyi* (S. France), p. 186.

Of these seven forms Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are undoubtedly valid, while No. 2 is a synonym of the Siberian race (*nobilis*) and No. 7 a synonym of the Central European race. No. 4, while valid, must be called *A. c. fulvus* (Linnæus).

The whole synonomy in regard to *Aquila fulva* is wrong, for the simple fact that that name belongs to the British race only, and is not, as most ornithologists have ruled it, a synonym of *chrysaëtos* based on a young bird, or, as Severtzow and others thought, a name for the Continental bird.

Severtzow was, however, undoubtedly right, as previous ornithologists have been, in supposing there were two Golden Eagles in North and Central Europe, the one (the Goldadler of the Germans) being the northern forest species, laying white or lightly marked eggs as a rule, and the other (the Steinadler of the Germans) being the bird of the

* 'Nouveaux mémoires de la Société impériale des Naturalistes de Moscou,' tome xv. livr. 3 et 5 (Moscou, 1885–88).

Central and Southern European mountains and laying larger and more richly marked eggs—more like Scottish eggs, but larger.

Severtzow's great mistake was in endeavouring to make *fulvus* and *nobilis* European species based on immature characters. He thought that the tail showed white in the young of the first and in the young and old of the second species, while *A. chrysaëtos*, he stated, showed no white in either young or old. Further, he made his *A. nobilis* range through Europe mixed up with *A. chrysaëtos*, of which it is really the immature stages.

He was, in fact, an exponent of the theory that some Golden Eagles retain white at the base of the tail and at the base of the body-feathers at all ages. Now, these are juvenile characters in all Golden Eagles, and even if more or less retained in some individuals or races they remain bad characters on which to attempt to make or restore species. There is no doubt that some races evince a tendency to retain these characters in adult plumage, but, considering that the white area of the tail diminishes towards the root with each successive moult, it is hazardous to say that because an example of, say, three or four years old retains some white at the root, under the tail-coverts, it will retain it at five or six years ; the case is the same with the white bases to the body-feathers.

Nevertheless, it is undoubted that some races retain a large percentage of basal white in the body-plumage in apparently adult state, such a race being *A. c. homeyeri*, while British birds also show a good deal of white basally. Yet Severtzow's theory is disproved by the fact that old birds of *A. c. canadensis*, one of the forms of his species *fulva*, show no white basally, while old Siberian birds also show none. The latter birds constitute the true form *nobilis* of Pallas, who, I consider, designated the large Siberian Golden Eagle by that name—a bird which has been overlooked by most writers since.

Sharpe, in 1874, working from insufficient material, admitted but one species of Golden Eagle, which he called

Aquila chrysaetus (Linnæus), although he actually described the British race, so that his description conveyed no idea of the bird he supposed he was describing. Dresser, in his 'Birds of Europe,' described an Archangel male and a Spanish female, but figured both so badly that his plate is nearly useless for identification. Dr. Hartert, in 1914, departed from the insular standpoint of British ornithologists by allowing three forms, viz. *A. c. chrysaëtos*, *A. c. occidentalis*, and *A. c. daphanea*, while in my 'Synopsis' (1922) I admitted four forms, as I felt *A. c. canadensis* was decidedly separable. Ridgway correctly diagnosed this form, and the tarsi differ, as he states, from those of the typical Scandinavian birds—a fact Gurney failed to quite appreciate when he compared them with Asiatic and other races. It is useless, for instance, to say that Ridgway was wrong because Central Asian birds have dark tarsi, since they form another distinct race *. Further, the tarsi are only one of the characters by which American birds can easily be distinguished.

As general characters, the colour of the under wing-coverts, of the tarsi in adult and young, the tint of the hind neck in the adult and of the body-plumage below, with the presence or absence of rufous tints, are the best guides in judging races of Golden Eagles, and it will be found that these characters do not agree in any two races of Golden Eagles I have separated. The colour of the upper parts of the body is a less material point in these as in so many other Raptorial birds, which exhibit only differences of environment, as a rule, on the upper parts of the body, while the lower parts always exhibit more strongly the primitive character and the evolution or mutation of the species, coupled with an accentuation of the differences caused by climate or environment.

* There may be apparent exceptions to Ridgway's diagnosis of the tarsi in case of really juvenile birds as against immature birds. Gurney instances one Lapland bird with "brown" tarsi, certainly not juvenile but possibly immature, and two North American (one doubtful) with "white" and "dirty creamy-white" tarsi, both probably quite juvenile.

The forms of the Golden Eagle, as I now characterise them, are eight in number, and the names and brief distinguishing characters are as follow :—

(1) Aquila chrysaëtos chrysaëtos (Linnæus), Syst. Nat. i. p. 88, 1758 : *Sweden.*

Moderate-sized light form ; tarsi in adult pale brown mottled with whitish, in immature white mottled with pale brown, in juvenile pure white ; plumage very pale ; hind neck pale tawny with brownish edges and whitish tips ; chest rufescent buff with blackish stripes ; breast and belly tawny ; under wing variegated, the under wing-coverts pale rufous with dark centres ; wing 603–648 mm.

Scandinavia to Finland and Baltic States, North and Central Russia, east to Ural Mountains, and probably W. Siberia.

(2) Aquila chrysaëtos regalis (Temminck), Man. Orn. ed. 1, p. 10, 1815 : *Europe* ; restr. type-loc. design. Severtzow, *Forclaz, Switzerland.*

Large dark form ; tarsi in adult brownish buff, in juvenile white, spotted with pale brown, in immature isabella-white, mixed with rufous ; plumage very dark, head and hind neck brown with paler tips ; no rufous below ; inner lining of wing wholly dark ; wing 620–714 mm.

South Central Europe, from the mountains of Southern France to the Alps, Tyrol, mountains of Italy, Sardinia, and Upper Austria, Carpathians, and the Balkans to Greece.

(3) Aquila chrysaëtos fulvus (Linnæus), Syst. Nat. i. p. 88, 1758 : ex Ray—*Derbyshire and Wales.*

Moderate-sized form ; tarsi in adult light rufous-brown, in juvenile whitish, mottled with pale brown ; head and hind neck rufescent buff with dark brown centres to feathers ; plumage dark chocolate-brown, with rufous tinge on breast and belly and with white bases ; under wing-coverts uniform with breast ; wing 608–650 mm.

British Islands.

(4) Aquila chrysaëtos homeyeri Severtzow, Nouv. Mém. Soc. Nat. Moscou, xv. p. 184, 1888 : *Balearic Islands and Algeria.*

Small form ; tarsi in adult pale brown, in juvenile snowy-white ; hind neck dull light brown with buffish-white tips ; plumage very dark and dull without rufous tints ; wing 580–654 mm.

Spain and Atlas range in North Africa.

(5) Aquila chrysaëtos canadensis (Linnæus), Syst. Nat. i. p. 88, 1758 : *Canada.*

Large dark form ; tarsi in adult darkish brown, in immature pale brown ; plumage very dark, blackish brown below, without rufous tinge and without white bases ; crown black, hind neck rufescent buff with dark brown centres ; wing 610–685 mm.

North America.

(6) Aquila chrysaëtos nobilis (Pallas), Zoogr. Rosso. Asiatica, i. p. 338, 1827 : *Ural, Mountains of Siberia and especially Dauria* (*also Kamtschatka*) ; restricted locality, *Dauria.*

Very large form ; tibial plumes blackish and reaching to claws ; tarsi in adult buff, in juvenile dingy white ; fore part of head dark brown, rest of head and hind neck golden buff, with fulvous-white edges ; plumage very dark, blackish brown, no rufous below ; under side of wing wholly dark in adult ; tail in juvenile white with narrow black terminal band across both webs of feathers ; wing 628–725 mm.

Eastern Siberia to Kamtschatka ; in winter to North China.

(7) Aquila chrysaëtos daphanea Hodgson in Gray's Zool. Misc. p. 81, 1844 : nom. nud.—*Nepal* ; Menzbier, Orn. Turkest. i. p. 75, 1888 : *Haute Asie.*

Large form ; tibial plumes dark rufous-brown and reaching only to base of toes ; tarsi in adult deep ferruginous, with black shaft-lines, in juvenile very pale brown ; hind neck deep ferruginous with paler tips ; plumage rich dark umber-

brown, no rufous below ; inner webs of inner primaries grey, irregularly banded with black; secondaries mottled with white ; in juvenile tail white, with terminal black band across both webs of central feathers only and on outer webs and tips of other feathers ; plumage blacker than in juvenile *A. c. nobilis* ; wing 620–700 mm.

High Central Asia, Himalayas to Thian Shan and Turkestan.

(8) Aquila chrysaëtos japonica Severtzow, Nouv. Mem. Soc. Nat. Moscou, xv. p. 182, 1888 : *Japan.*

Small form; tarsi in adult as in *daphanea* ; in juvenile white, mottled with pale brown ; inner webs of all primaries and secondaries mottled lengthwise with white ; immature tail grey instead of white, with broader terminal black band ; wing 582–630 mm.

Japan, Corea, and E. China (?).

It is necessary to add a few remarks concerning some of the names selected for the various forms I have enumerated. For No. 1 *chrysaëtos* of Linnæus is perfectly definite as I have already stated, there being no reason to suppose that *melanœtus* of Linnæus has anything to do with this species, nor would it ever have been added to the synonymy if Gmelin had not added the tail of a Golden Eagle to the original vague description and then identified it with No. 409 of the 'Planches Enluminées' of Buffon. Linnæus himself cites for it, firstly, Ray's 'Synopsis' (p. 7, no. 4, 1713), and, secondly, Willughby (Orn. p. 30, tab. 2). The descriptions of Gmelin, Brisson, Linnæus, Ray, and Willughby are totally at variance with one another, and what bird is intended by Linnæus it is impossible to determine, but his description of the tarsi as "semilanatis" added to Willughby's statement that the legs were "feathered down but a little below the knees, the naked part being red," definitely removes it from our consideration so far as the genus *Aquila* is concerned.

For No. 2 *regalis* of Temminck should be used. It is the *Aquila fulva* of Continental authors, but not of Linnæus.

Under the name of *regalis* Temminck redescribed the Central European bird, the Royal Eagle of the French and Italians, basing his name on *Falco niger* and *Falco fulvus* of Gmelin and stating that his action was to avoid future errors. *Falco niger* of Gmelin is based on Brown's Black-backed Eagle, and it is difficult to say what bird Brown's plate is intended for, but it is certainly not *chrysaëtos* of Linnæus, neither is *Falco fulvus* of Gmelin, which is based firstly on Brisson's *Aquila* (Orn. i. p. 419, 1760), which is probably the Central European form, and further identified with No. 409 in the 'Planches Enluminées' of Buffon, which is the Southern European bird. As the southern bird differs from the northern, *regalis* is not a new name for *chrysaëtos*. Temminck's distribution runs from Russia through Central Europe to France, and may be cited as "Central Europe." Severtzow designates "Forclaz, Suisse, frontière de Savoie."

For No. 3 the name *fulvus* of Linnæus is perfectly definite, being from Ray's 'Synopsis Avium,' p. 6, no. 2, 1713), from the Peak of Derbyshire and Snowdon in Wales, in both of which localities it is stated to have bred.

For No. 4 *homeyeri* of Severtzow is the correct name, as it predates by one year *occidentalis* of Olphe Galliard, by which name this very distinct form has been recognized by Dr. Hartert (Vög. pal. Fauna, p. 1091).

For No. 6 *nobilis* of Pallas, is, I think, quite definite, as he described the Siberian and Kamtschatkan bird under that name as distinct from *chrysaëtos*. As already stated, it does not appear to enter the European fauna. If the Siberian birds were actually the same as the Himalayan, then the name of the latter would have to be changed from *daphanea* to *nobilis*, but I am confident that the East Siberian birds are quite distinct from *daphanea* and *chrysaëtos*.

I propose to describe all these forms at greater length in a future part of my monograph, but the short characters given will, I think, serve to distinguish the various forms, four of which, viz. *regalis*, *fulvus*, *canadensis*, and *nobilis*, have hitherto been completely misunderstood in this country,

while a fifth, *japonica*, has not hitherto been considered on account of lack of skins from that country. It is at present an indefinite race.

The only race I have not been able to assign to its correct place is that from Persia. Two skins from that country exist in Tring Museum, an adult male and a juvenile female, the wing-measurements being 575 and 595 mm. respectively. The adult resembles *daphanea* in some respects, but is much smaller, has not the rufous shoulder, and has the underparts chocolate, but the chest very pale, with whitish edges and darker tips to the feathers. I cannot place it with any of the existing races, yet cannot propose to create an additional race on one adult skin.

Mr. Shore Baily exhibited an egg of a Peacock-Pheasant (*Polyplectron*). Compared with a normal egg of *P. bicalcaratus* this egg was very pale, nearly white as compared with deep brown. It was laid in Mr. Baily's aviary by a very grey bird, whose exact country of origin was unknown. A male and two females had recently died, and Mr. Baily had presented the skins to the British Museum.

Dr. Percy Lowe stated that the skins of the birds referred to by Mr. Shore Baily belonged to the *bicalcaratus* group of the genus *Polyplectron*, but were very conspicuously unlike any other race. He was describing them in the forthcoming number of 'The Ibis.'

Mr. N. B. Kinnear forwarded the following descriptions of new races of birds discovered by Mr. H. Stevens while collecting in Tonkin, under the auspices of the Salvin-Godman Fund and Percy Sladen Trust:—

Turdinulus epilepidotus amyæ, subsp. nov.

Allied to *T. epilepidotus clarus* Rob. & Kloss. from S. Annam, but larger in size and the sides of the body and flanks darker and without any russet-brown.

Type in the British Museum, ♂. Bao Ha, Tonkin, 5 Jan., 1924. H. Stevens coll. No. 119.

A single specimen examined.

Measurements :—

	Wing.	Tarsus.	Bill from base of skull.
T. e. clarus ...	51–53	20–21	15
T. e. amyæ ...	57	23	18

Note.—I have much pleasure in naming this Wren-Warbler after Mrs. Stevens, who accompanied her husband on their collecting-trip.

Actinodura ramsayi minor, subsp. nov.

Similar in colour to the typical form *A. ramsayi ramsayi*, but considerably smaller in size.

Wing 76–77 mm., tail 98–99 mm., as against 85–95 mm. and 110–127 mm. in typical form.

In addition to the smaller size, the race is distinguished from *A. r. yunnanensis* by its less rufous colour.

Type in the British Museum, ♂. Ngoi-Tio, Tonkin, 2nd June, 1924. Collected by H. Stevens. No. 318.

Turdinulus brevicaudatus stevensi, subsp. nov.

Similar to *T. b. leucostictus* from the Malay Peninsula, but larger, and the centres of the feathers on the back and the edges of all those of the wing distinctly darker brown, while the rump and tail are also a darker and deeper shade of brown. Below the whole of the underside, except the throat, is umber-brown, slightly more rufous in the middle. Two specimens examined.

Type in the British Museum, ♂. Ngoi-Tio, Tonkin, 26th June, 1924. Collected by H. Stevens. No. 274.

Measurements :—

T. b. leucostictus (8) : wing 61–63, tarsus 24–25 mm.
T. b. stevensi : „ 66–69 „ 29 mm.

Named in honour of Mr. H. Stevens, the collector.

Yuhina gularis sordidior, subsp. nov.

Very close to *Y. g. gularis*, but distinguished by the darker colour of the back, shorter and darker crest, more heavily streaked throat, and richer rust-colour on the abdomen.

From *Y. g. yangpiensis* this form differs in the darker colour of the back.

Type in the British Museum, ♂. Ngoi-Tio, Tonkin. 24. vi. 24. H. Stevens coll. No. 289. Six specimens examined.

Mesia argentauris rubrogularis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *M. a. argentauris* in the rather greyer back, wanting the greenish wash, the more orange-golden collar, and the crimson-vermilion throat and upper breast.

Type in the British Museum, ♂. Ngoi-Tio, Tonkin. 12. vi. 24. H. Stevens coll. No. 287. Three specimens examined.

Note.—In specimens from Sikkim the throat is a uniform golden-orange without any scarlet, and the same is the case in all skins from Assam, Burma, and the Malay Peninsula in the British Museum, with the exception of two from Mooleyit, in which there is a little crimson-vermilion on the throat, approaching *M. a. rubrogularis.*

Mr. Kinnear also sent the following note :—

In the November number of the 'Bulletin,' p. 28, I pointed ont that the new subspecies of *Tephrodornis* from Siam, which I described in June 1924, had already been given a name by Messrs. Robinson and Kloss. By a slip of the pen, I gave the proper name as *Tephrodornis pelvicus fretensis* instead of *T. p. annectens* R. & K. The correction should therefore read :—

(2) Tephrodornis gularis annectens Rob. & Kloss.

Tephrodornis pelvica, subsp. *annectens* nov., Rob. & Kloss, Journ. F.M.S. Mus. vol. viii. p. 222 (1918) : Lamra, Trang.

Mr. G. M. Mathews sent the following communication :—

I have shown in the Austral. Av. Rec. vol. iv. pp. 169–170, March 1922, that *Creadion* Vieillot, 1816, must be used for the Australian Yellow Wattle-bird, *Corvus paradoxus* Daudin, 1800.

This genus has long been used for the Saddle-back of New Zealand, *Sturnus carunculatus* Gmelin, 1789.

As no synonym for the Saddle-back has been recorded before, so far as I know, the following will be used in future :—

Genus Philesturnus G. St.-H.

Philesturnus Geoffrey Saint-Hilaire, N. Ann. Mus. Nat. Hist. Paris, p. 390, 1832. *Type* by monotypy, *Sturnus carunculatus* Latham = Gmelin.

Philesturnus carunculatus (Gm.). Saddle-back.

Sturnus carunculatus Gmelin, Syst. Nat. p. 805, 1789 : Queen Charlotte's Sound, South Island, New Zealand.

Distr. New Zealand (both Islands).

Capt. H. F. Stoneham sent the following notes and descriptions of species or subspecies of Central African birds :—

Tchitrea albiventris, sp. nov.

Male. Entire head and throat glossy blue-black. Back, rump, tail, and scapulars light chestnut-brown. Wing : primaries sepia ; secondaries dark brown, edged lighter brown. Breast and underparts white, with a yellowish-brown tinge at the vent and under tail-coverts. Greater wing-coverts black, edged with white or yellowish-white. Lesser wing-coverts brown. Bill bluish. Feet blue. Iris brown. Eyelids turquoise-blue. Wings 79 mm.

Hab. Wooded country, Bombo, 23 miles from Lake Victoria, Uganda.

Type. ♂, 22.5.23, in my collection. No. B. 1033.

Gymnorhis pyrgita kakamariæ, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *G. p. massaica,* but very much larger and generally darker. Wings, ♂, 92, 96, 97 mm. ; ♀, 87, 88 mm.

Hab. Wooded rocky country, 5000–6000 ft. above sea-level in Northern Karamoja, Uganda.

Types. ♂ 4.5.24, ♀ 4.5.24 in my collection. Nos. B. 2568 and B. 2569.

EREMOMELA FLAVIVENTRIS.

I have examined all the specimens in the British Museum and in Lord Rothschild's Museum at Tring, and I arrive at the following conclusions:—

EREMOMELA FLAVIVENTRIS GRISEOFLAVA.

This is a dark race with a heavy thick bill. Eighteen birds from the Sudan in the British Museum are easily separable as being very much paler (almost as pale as *E. f. alexanderi*, but lacking the yellow or yellowish rump) and must in future bear a new name. The type of *E. f. griseoflava* was named from Bogosland, Northern Abyssinia. For the pale Sudan birds I propose the name

Eremomela flaviventris sudanæ, subsp. nov.

Types. ♂ 28.12.13, ♀ 27.12.13, from Sennar, both in the British Museum. Reg. No. ♂ 1915.12.24.1032, ♀ 1919. 12.17.470.

EREMOMELA FLAVIVENTRIS ALEXANDERI.

This race was described by Sclater and Praed in 'The Ibis' for 1918, the type-locality being Kordofan (Bara). These birds are paler than the foregoing, and have a yellowish rump, but it is doubtful if this latter character is constant or only individual, as specimens from Kordofan exist without this feature. But this race cannot include the foregoing pale brown race, which is quite distinct.

Eremomela flaviventris saharæ, subsp. nov.

There are nine specimens in the Tring Museum from the Sahara Desert, which I at first thought should be included under *E. f. alexanderi*, but as they are paler, and greyer, especially on the crown than *E. f. alexanderi*, and considerably paler and very much greyer than *E. f. sudanæ* they must now be separated and I propose the above name.

Types in the Tring Museum.

Eremomela flaviventris karamojensis, subsp. nov.

This race is even darker than the Abyssinian race *E. f. griseoflava*, and has in addition a very much deeper yellow on the underparts, and deep grey, instead of whitish, on the breast. The bill is heavy, as in the Abyssinian bird, but there is no sign of any yellowish on the rump whatsoever. Feet brown. Iris light brown.

Hab. Wooded and well-watered country between 5000 and 6000 ft. above sea-level, in Northern Karamoja, N.E. frontier of Uganda.

Type. ♂, 5.5.24, in my collection. No. B. 7105.

ORIOLUS MONACHUS ROLLETI.

ORIOLUS MONACHUS KIKUYUENSIS.

In addition to the series in my own collection from Central Uganda and Northern Uganda, I have examined all the specimens in the British Museum and in Lord Rothschild's Museum at Tring, and have arrived at the following conclusions :—

North-east African birds, that is to say, birds from Southern Abyssinia, the Sudan, and the Northern, Chua, Province of Uganda are small pale birds, whilst birds from the Highlands of Kenya Colony, the Lake Districts of Uganda, and the highland and mountainous country of Northern Tanganyika Territory are large dark birds.

Now, wing-measurements of the N.E. African birds from the foregoing districts run from 112 mm. to 135 mm., averaging 126 mm.; whilst those of Central East African birds from the localities mentioned measure from 126 mm. to 147 mm., averaging 135 mm. Similarly, culmens of birds in the first group run from 20 mm. to 23 mm., averaging 22 mm., and in the latter group from 21 mm. to 25 mm., averaging 23 mm.

The description of *O. m. rolleti* was from a White Nile bird, and therefore must stand for the name of the small light form, referred to above as the North-east African race.

In 'Novitates Zoologicæ,' vol. xxix. 1922, p. 127, Van Someren named a further subspecies under the name of *O. m. kikuyuensis*, type-locality Nairobi, Kenya Colony, but on wing-measurements alone! The description of his subspecies must now be amended to include all the large dark race from Central East Africa as follows:—

ORIOLUS MONACHUS KIKUYUENSIS.

Nearest to *O. m. rolleti*, but differs therefrom in being generally darker green on the head and back, some very considerably darker and much larger.

Wing 126 mm. to 147 mm. Culmen 21 mm. to 25 mm.

Hab. Highlands and mountainous districts of Kenya Colony, Northern Tanganyika Territory, and the Lake Districts of Uganda.

Note.—The form in Southern Tanganyika Territory is nearer to and not separable from *O. m. rolleti*.

HYPHANTORNIS CUCULLATUS.

Among a series of *H. c. femininus* collected by me at Bombo, Kingdom of Uganda, is one xanthochroistic example of considerable interest. In this specimen the normal black of the head, face, and throat is replaced by yellow, with the exception of a few feathers at the base of the lower mandible which remain black. There is also less black and more yellow on the back than in normally coloured birds, and in the right wing the first and sixth primaries are entirely yellow, as also are the primary-coverts, the remainder being of normal pigmentation. The bird was nest-building when shot, constructing its nest in a Bark Cloth tree among a colony of typical birds.

Example in my collection. No. B. 2738. 7.4.23.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, March 11th, 1925, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. Members are reminded that this Dinner is held conjointly with the Annual Dinner of the B. O. U., and that they are allowed to bring Lady Guests.

The Meeting will be devoted principally to the exhibition of Lantern-slides and Photographs, and the Hon. Secretary will be pleased to hear from any Members who have slides, etc. to exhibit, so that their names may be included in the Agenda.

The following programme has been provisionally arranged :—

1. Mr. Oliver G. Pike : Cuckoo Film and Film of Birds in Flight, with slow-motion camera.
2. Mr. W. Shore Baily : Lantern-slides of African Weavers and Wydahs—Nests, Eggs, and Birds in Display.
3. Mr. Niall Rankin : Slides from Spitsbergen.

Members intending to dine are particularly requested to inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, W. 1., in order that the necessary seating arrangements may be made.

(Signed)

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.* George C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

MAR 1925 PURCHASED
BRITISH MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY ZD

Bird Room.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCXCV.

The two-hundred-and-ninety-first Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, March 11th, 1925, in conjunction with the Annual Dinner of the British Ornithologists' Union.

Lord Rothschild, the President of the B.O.U., took the Chair during the Dinner ; and

Mr. H. F. Witherby (Chairman of the Club) during the subsequent proceedings.

Members of the B.O.C. present:—W. Shore Baily ; C. E. Baker ; E. C. Stuart Baker ; Miss M. G. Best ; S. Boorman ; H. B. Booth ; C. D. Borrer ; A. L. Butler ; E. P. Chance ; Hon. G. L. Charteris ; Major R. E. Cheesman ; Col. Stephenson R. Clarke ; Sir Percy Cox ; F. Curtis ; R. H. Deane ; Lt.-Col. A. Delmé-Radcliffe ; A. Ezra ; The Hon. Masauji Hachisuka ; Dr. J. M. Harrison ; S. H. Hart ; Dr. E. Hartert ; G. R. Humphreys ; C. Ingram ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; N. B. Kinnear ; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*) ; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*) ;

N. F. Lucas ; Mrs. P. McKenna ; C. W. Mackworth-Praed ; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath ; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr ; G. M. Mathews ; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo ; Mrs. A. Meinertzhagen ; C. Oldham ; H. L. Popham ; R. H. Read ; C. B. Rickett ; B. B. Rivière ; W. L. Sclater ; D. Seth-Smith ; Sir Malcolm Seton ; Major A. G. L. Sladen ; H. Kirke Swann ; C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby ; Mrs. R. Haig Thomas ; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst ; B. W. Tucker ; E. Valpy ; Dr. A. Hope Walker ; J. Sladen Wing ; G. Witherington ; C. de Worms.

Members of the B. O. U. :—E. Bidwell ; K. J. Acton Davis ; J. S. Dyson ; W. E. Glegg ; Miss E. M. Godman ; J. F. Godman ; S. P. Gordon ; H. Gruning ; Surg.-Comm. K. H. Jones ; Miss E. N. Knobel ; Mrs. Lemon ; Mrs. A. H. Murton ; Oliver G. Pike ; A. N. T. Rankin ; W. E. Renaut ; Major C. W. Smeed ; Prince Taka-Tsukasa ; Marquis of Tavistock ; W. R. Thompson ; T. Wells.

Guests :—Mrs. C. E. Baker ; Mrs. E. C. Stuart Baker ; F. J. Barrington ; E. M. Bidwell ; The Hon. Mrs. Charteris ; Miss J. Chatterton ; C. Christy ; Mrs. Coldstraw ; Mr. Coltart ; Mrs. R. K. Cock ; Mr. & Mrs. Cooke ; Lady Cox ; H. Davey ; Miss V. Davis ; Mrs. A. Delmé-Radcliffe ; F. H. Edmundson ; G. Evans ; Mrs. Ezra ; Dr. Gayner ; Miss Godman ; C. Green ; Miss P. Griffith ; Mrs. Gruning ; Capt. J. R. M. Hammond ; Miss D. Holman ; B. S. Ingram ; J. W. B. Jones ; Capt. Knobel ; F. Lemon ; Mrs. Mackworth-Praed ; Sir R. & Lady Mant ; H. J. Massingham ; G. Moore ; N. Nakashima ; Mrs. O. G. Pike ; Mrs. Leybourne Popham ; J. E. Rand ; Mrs. W. L. Sclater ; Lady Seton ; K. L. Skinner ; Mrs. Sladen ; Capt. Stokes ; L. J. Turtle ; Sir M. & Lady Thompson ; A. Turner ; H. B. Usher ; J. B. Waldy ; E. J. Wilbraham ; Mrs. Sladen Wing ; Mrs. Witherby ; D. M. Wynne.

The Annual Dinner of the B. O. U., held in conjunction with the B. O. C., was very well attended, a total of 133 including members of the Union, Club, and guests being present.

Mr. Oliver G. Pike opened the proceedings with a most interesting cinema-film of a Cuckoo depositing her egg in a Meadow-Pipit's nest. Some of the films also depicted the foster-mother feeding the young Cuckoo and the young Cuckoo ejecting its nest-mates. Mr. Pike also gave a most instructive series of cinema-pictures of birds in flight shown in slow-motion.

Mr. Shore Baily showed a fine series of photographs of Weaver and Widow Birds, illustrating various methods of nest-building and other habits. These photographs had all been taken in Mr. Shore Baily's aviaries, and comprised a number of different species.

Mr. D. Seth-Smith's exhibition consisted of a series of remarkable photographs illustrating the rare nuptial display of the Argus Pheasant. This is the second time that such a display has been noted.

Mr. W. E. Glegg showed some photographs of birds from the Camargue, comprising Gull-billed Tern, Red-Crested Pochard, eggs and nests of Flamingoes, and a splendid representation of an Avocet at its nest.

Mr. A. N. T. Rankin exhibited a series of excellent slides taken in Spitzbergen, and North-east Land, illustrating scenes in the life-history of the Ivory Gull, Sabine's Gull, Brent Goose, as well as examples of nests of other birds breeding there.

Mr. Seton Gordon showed some pictures of a Golden Eagle at its nest.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker described the following new subspecies of Munia:—

Erythrura prasina cœlica, subsp. nov.

Differs from the typical form in having the crimson of the lower parts richer in colour and extending on to the lower breast and flanks, instead of being confined to the abdomen; the blue of the throat extends on to the upper breast, meeting the crimson, instead of being divided therefrom by an orange-buff band. The upper parts are also a rather brighter green.

Colours of soft parts and measurements are the same as in the typical form.

Type, ♂, No. 88.8.13.42. British Museum, Coll. A. H. Everett.

Type-locality. Marintan-an, Borneo.

Range. Borneo.

The typical form is found from Tenasserim to Java and Sumatra, the type-locality being Java.

Uroloncha rufiventris, nom. nov.

This bird has hitherto been known as *Uroloncha pectoralis* (Jerdon MS., Blyth, J. A. S. B. xiii. 1844), but this name is unfortunately preoccupied by *Amadina pectoralis* of Gould, P. Z. S. 1840, p. 127. I can find no name applicable to this Munia, and, therefore, name it as above.

Mr. H. Kirke Swann made the following communication on the races of *Gypaëtus barbatus* Linnæus:—

Dr. Hartert, in his admirable 'Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna,' has dealt with the forms of this species in the western Palæarctic area and has defined three races, viz., *G. b. barbatus* of North Africa, *G. b. grandis* of Europe and Asia, and *G. b. meridionalis* of South Africa and the mountains of Abyssinia. He has, however, left the Asiatic birds more or less undecided, as, although he shows the widely-differing measurements, he throws them all in with *G. b. grandis*, rejecting *hemachalanus* of Hutton for the Himalayan

birds, because the black pectoral band is not invariably present. I think, however, that the pectoral band, although so strongly evident in Asiatic birds, is not the correct character to separate them on, as vestiges of it are present in African, Arabian, and especially European birds. The principal point in all races is the depth of coloration of the underparts, with also the differing size.

After again examining the group, I feel that two distinct races must be recognized for the Asiatic birds, viz., a small one with deeply-coloured underparts in the Himalayas and a larger one with whitish underparts in Turkestan, Altai, and South Siberia, both usually, but not invariably, possessing the black pectoral band. Further, I find that Arabian birds belong to the North African and not to the European race, to which they are referred by Dr. Hartert. Three birds from Yemen, Arabia, in the British Museum, are very small and richly coloured below, being identical in coloration with, but actually smaller than, North African birds.

Of this species I therefore now recognize the following forms :—

Gypaëtus barbatus barbatus Linnæus.

Syst. Nat. i. p. 87, 1758 : *Africa*, ex Edwards = *Santa Cruz, near Oran*, apud Hartert.

Smaller than *G. b. grandis*, wing 720–770 mm. ; below warmer tawny reddish, more like *G. b. hemachalanus*.

Atlas Mountains of N. Africa, also N. Arabia.

Gypaëtus barbatus grandis Storr.

Alpenreise vom Jahre 1781, p. 69, 1784 : *Switzerland*.

Larger, wing 760–815 mm. ; underparts buffy white, with a more rusty tinge on throat; no black gorget, but one or two black feathers each side of chest.

Spain, Mediterranean Islands, and S.E. Europe to Persia ; formerly also Alps and Tyrol.

Gypaëtus barbatus hemachalanus Hutton.

Journal Asiat. Soc. of Bengal, vii. p. 22, 1838 : *Tootoo, near Simla, Himalaya*.

Slightly larger, wing 780–835 mm.; below much darker rusty red; the throat deeper ferruginous; chest with an irregular black gorget (sometimes wanting).

Himalayas.

Gypaëtus barbatus altaicus Sharpe *.

Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. i. p. 229; ex Gebler, Bull. Soc. Nat. St. Petersburg, vi. col. 293, 1840 : *Altai*.

Much larger, wing 855–895 mm.; much paler than *G. b. hemachalanus*; head, hind neck, and abdomen whitish, with only a slight shade of ochraceous, but with an irregular brownish-black gorget.

Northern Central Asia; Turkestan and Thian-Shan to Altai and South Siberia, south to Thibet.

Gypaëtus barbatus meridionalis Keyserling & Blasius.

Wirbelt. Europ. p. xxviii, 1840: *South Africa*, type in Berlin Mus.

Size of *G. b. barbatus*; wing 720–775 mm.; cheeks white, without the black markings; tarsus bare towards the lower part.

South Africa and mountains of Abyssinia.

The measurements, it should be stated, are taken inside the wing with a flexible rule, and are consequently less than those of Dr. Hartert, which are taken outside the wing with a steel tape.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews communicated the following nomenclatural notes, viz. :—

Monarcha cinerascens nova, new name for *Monarcha inornatus* Meyer & Wiglesworth, Birds Celebes, vol. i. p. 384, 1898 : *Talaut* (not of Garnot, 1828).

Zosterops lateralis mugga, new name for *Zosterops flaviceps*, figured and described by Finsch and Hartlaub, Fauna Centralpolyn. p. 52, pl. vi. : *Viti, Fiji* (not Peale, 1848).

* The name *altaicus* dates from Sharpe, who bestows it in his synonyms, probably by a slip, on Gebler's "Bartgeier Sibiriens (*Gypaëtus barbatus*)," under which name the race is correctly described by Gebler.

Piezormona, gen. nov., differs from *Monarcha* (the type of which is *melanopsis* Vieillot) in colour-pattern and in having the tail wedge-shaped, not square, and legs more robust. Type, *Monarcha everetti* Hartert, 1896.

Hylocitrea, gen. nov., differs from *Pachycephala* (the type of which is *pectoralis* Lath.) in colour-pattern, the sexes being more or less alike, rictal bristles not noticeable, and wing-formation more rounded. Type, *Pachycephala bonthaina* Meyer & Wigglesworth, 1896.

Graucasoma, gen. nov., differs from *Edolisoma* in having the female of a distinctly reddish colour and in being less robust in formation of bill and feet. Type, *Edolisoma obiense* Salvadori.

Duyvena, gen. nov., differs from *Æthopyga* (the type of which is *siparaja* Raffles) in colour-pattern, the bill is also straighter and the tail evenly rounded with no projecting middle feathers. Type, *Nectarinia duyvenbodei* Schlegel.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst forwarded the description of :—

Pyrrhulauda grisea siccata, subsp. nov.

Resembles *Pyrrhulauda grisea grisea* in size, but the males are paler and greyer above ; the females are paler above and have the underparts whiter.

Type-locality. Deesa.

Distribution. Sind, Punjab, Rajputana, Gurgaon, Indore, Cutch, West United Provinces to Fategarh, etc.

Type in the British Museum. No. 87.7.1.2839. Deesa, Rajputana, 2.8.1875. Capt. Butler, Hume Coll.

Observations. The typical race was described by Scopoli from South Indian specimens (Ginge, S. Arcot, Madras). Like so many Indian birds of wide distribution, those inhabiting the N.W. (dry area) are easily distinguishable from those from Southern India. The distribution of this dry-area form follows remarkably closely the area where the rainfall is 25 inches or less.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, April 8th, 1925, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

The Subscription for 1924–1925, £1 1s., became due on the 1st of October, 1924. There are still several subscriptions outstanding and the Treasurer will be pleased to receive these as soon as possible.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Dr. Percy R. Lowe, at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands not later than at the meeting MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.* George C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

BRITISH MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY Z D
8 APR 1925 PURCHASED

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11 MAY 1925
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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCXCVI.

The two-hundred-and-ninety-second Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, April 8th, 1925.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; Clifford D. Borrer; A. L. Butler; Major R. E. Cheesman; Sir Percy Z. Cox; Capt. F. W. Dewhurst; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. E. Hartert; N. B. Kinnear; G. C. Lambert; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Mrs. A. Meinertzhagen; C. Oldham; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; Col. R. Sparrow; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst.

Guests:—J. P. R. Hale; W. H. Hale; Admiral J. H. Stenhouse.

Lord Rothschild had been kindly informed by Mr. Albert Collin, of Kotka, Finland, that his name *Muscicapa blythi*, new name for *Muscicapula melanoleuca* Blyth, which is preoccupied if placed in the genus *Muscicapa* (Nov. Zool. xxviii. p. 48, 1921), is already preoccupied by *Muscicapa blythi*

Giebel, Thesaurus Orn. ii. p. 631, 1875, where it is used as a new name for Sharpe's *Cyornis simplex*. He therefore names it

Muscicapa collini, nom. nov.

Dr. Ernst Hartert's attention had been kindly called by Mr. A. Collin to the fact that *Oriolus chinensis meridionalis* Hart. (Nov. Zool. iii. p. 155, 1896) is preoccupied by *Oriolus meridionalis* Brehm, Isis, 1845, p. 332 (*cf.* Vög. pal. Fauna, p. 2045). He therefore proposes to call it

Oriolus chinensis macassariensis, nom. nov.

About this subspecies might also be consulted Meinertzhagen, 'Ibis,' 1923, p. 68, where the differences are very well stated.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst exhibited some Redwings from Iceland and made the following remarks:—In the Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 28, the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe described the Redwing from Iceland as *Turdus coburni*, but, as it was obvious that this description was based on a very worn breeding bird, the Icelandic race has never been considered to be recognizable. However, to my eyes, it seems quite as good a race as many which are accepted, but none of Dr. Sharpe's characters hold good. The Iceland bird is a trifle darker olive on the upper parts and more washed with olive on the breast and flanks than the Swedish bird, and it runs larger in size. The original description stated that the Icelandic bird is paler grey above, and paler on the flanks and on the striæ of the breast.

The following are the measurements:—

Sweden	7 ♂ ♂, W. 116–120 2 ♀ ♀, W. 118·5–120	
England and Holland.	20 ♂ ♂, 117–123 24 ♀ ♀, 113–121·5, once 123	rarely over 121.
Iceland	16 ♂ ♂, 120·5 once, 121–128 15 ♀ ♀, 120–130	75 % 122 or over.

Obs. Possibly some winter in Iceland, as I have a specimen thence as late as November 27. It is almost certain to occur in Great Britain in winter or on passage, but none of the specimens from S. England which I have examined is referable to this race.

Dr. Ticehurst made the following remarks on the Bearded Reedling (*Panurus biarmicus*) :—Of all the British birds probably none is so entirely sedentary as the Bearded Reedling, and one would expect that it of all birds would have segregated out into a recognizable race. In order to test this, I have been to some trouble to collect together from various museums a considerable series of these birds (over 120 in all) from England (over 40) and from Continental Europe (Holland, France, Spain, Italy). The type was described from the cage-birds brought over from Copenhagen (Edwards, Av. 55. t. 55), but as the Reedling does not, and never did, occur in Denmark, one must suppose that the origin of these cage-birds was in reality Holland. Now, a fair number of English birds are darker in general coloration than Dutch and other continental birds, but this is by no means constant. One may find some English birds pale, and others from S. France, Italy, and Holland as dark as any English ones, and therefore I do not consider it wise to separate any English race.

The Eastern race, *P. russicus*, is, of course, a perfectly recognizable form—a beautiful washed-out representative of our bird,—and at the same time rather a remarkable enigma. We know that some birds, such as *Ammomanes*, have much the coloration of the ground they inhabit, and, again, some birds show dark forms in "wet" areas and paler forms in "dry" areas, but at first sight it is not clear why this eastern Reedling, which presumably lives in much the same sort of habitat throughout its enormous range as the European bird, should have become so pale. I think some general discussion on these lines at one of our Club meetings would be most instructive.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker described the following new species of Finches :—

(1) **Procarduelis nipalensis intensicolor**, subsp. nov.

Similar to *Procarduelis n. nipalensis*, but deeper in colour, both above and below. In the male the deep crimson, which extends in a broad band across the upper breast of *P. n. nipalensis*, is in this race extended on to the edge of the throat and practically over the whole of the lower breast and posterior flanks and abdomen.

The female is much darker than is the female of *P. n. nipalensis* and is also more smoky, less ochraceous, brown than that bird.

Colours of soft parts. Iris brown ; bill grey- or horny-brown, lighter below ; legs and feet grey-brown (*Forrest*).

Measurements. As in *P. n. nipalensis*.

Type. 1922.12.7.455, ♂, Stephenson-Clarke Coll., British Museum.

Mekong Salwin divide, Yunnan.

2 ♂, 4 ♀ examined.

Distribution. Yunnan and Shan States.

(2) **Passer montanus tibetanus**, subsp. nov.

Similar to *Passer m. montanus*, but with the redder rump of *P. m. malaccensis* and with a wing-measurement of 76 to 82 mm. as against a maximum of 75 mm. in the other races.

Colours of soft parts. "Iris dark brown ; bill black, gape yellow ; legs fleshy" (*Walton*).

Type. No. 1905.12.31.289, ♂, Khumbajong, Tibet, Oct. 1903, Capt. H. I. Walton. British Museum Collection.

Distribution. Tibet and Sikkim. A specimen obtained on the Abor Expedition, wing 79 mm., seems to belong to this race.

Specimens examined, 6 ♂, 2 ♀.

The material in the British Museum Collection is very poor, and better material may show other colour-differences,

in addition to the great difference in size between this and other races of Tree-Sparrow.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following nomenclatural notes, viz. :—

Rorotonga, gen. nov., differs from *Chasiempis* Cabanis in having the sexes of a different colour, bill stronger and higher, tail-feathers rounded and not distinctly pointed. Type, *Monarcha dimidiata* Hartlaub & Finch, 1871.

Mohohina, gen. nov., differs from *Moho* Lesson in having plumes on the side of the face. Type, *Acrulocercus bishopi* Rothschild, 1893.

Pseudomoho, gen. nov., differs from *Moho* Lesson in having quite a different tail-formation and in not having any ornamental plumes. Type, *Mohoa braccatus* Cassin, 1855.

Magumma, gen. nov. Type, *Himatione parva* Stejneger, 1887. Perkins, Fauna Hawaiiensis, pt. vii. 1904, made for this a new genus *Rothschildia*, but this name is pre-occupied for a genus of moth, so the above is necessary.

Gummyza, gen. nov., differs from *Leptomyza* in not having the flat pouch on the opening of the ear. Type, *Merops samoensis* Hombron & Jacquinot, 1841.

Calliptilus solitarius (Latham), Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vol. xv. p. 42, 1891, should be called *Calliptilus vaillanti* Shaw, Nat. Misc. vol. xxi. pl. 909, 1810, Fiji, as Latham's name is pre-occupied by Suckow, Naturg. vol. ii. p. 334, 1801.

Deviœca, gen. nov., differs from *Micrœca* Gould in having a heavier, more hooked bill, stronger feet and claws, and different-shaped tail. Type, *Micrœca papuana* Meyer, 1875.

Addœca, gen. nov., differs from *Micrœca* Gould in having stouter feet and claws, longer and stouter nasal bristles, nostrils not hidden. Type, *Micrœca addita* Hartert.

Trocheligone, gen. nov., differs from *Gerygone* Gould in having a heavier bill, stronger bristles, and long silky flank-feathers. Type, *Gerygone poliocephala* Salvadori.

Pachycilodryas, gen. nov., combines in some feathers the characters of *Pachycephala* and *Pœcilodryas*. Type, *Pœcilodryas modesta* De Vis.

Cryptigata, gen. nov., differs from *Cryptolopha* Swains in having a different colour-pattern, the rictal bristles not strong, and the fifth primary the longest. Type, *Cryptolopha giulianetti* (Salvadori), 1896.

Monarchalba, gen. nov., differs from *Monarcha* V. & H. in having a different colour-pattern, a wedge-shaped tail, and strong rictal bristles. Type, *Monarcha menckei* Heinroth, 1902.

Monarcharses, gen. nov., differs from *Monarcha* V. & H. in having a different colour-pattern, more rounded tail, and stronger and heavier legs and feet. Type, *Monarcha godeffroyi* Hartlaub, 1867.

Lorimonarcha, gen. nov., differs from *Monarcha* in having a different colour-pattern, longer tail, and different wing-pattern. Type, *Monarcha loricatus* Walker, 1863.

Chloromonarcha, gen. nov., differs from *Monarcha* in its different colour-pattern and more slender bill and feet. Type, *Muscicapa chrysomela* Lesson.

Neopomarea, gen. nov., differs from *Pomarea* Bp. in its different colour-pattern and heavier bill and feet. Type, *Monarcha castaneiventris* Verreaux, 1858.

Proceriolotes, gen. nov., differs from *Foulehaio* in not having a wattle below the eye. Type, *Ptilotis procerior* Finsch & Hartlaub.

Alphaphilemon, gen. nov., differs from *Philemon* in not having any of the head denuded of feathers and in having longer and heavier bill and legs. Type, *Tropidorhynchus diemenensis* Lesson, 1831.

Method of Deposition of the Egg of the Common Cuckoo.

The Committee desire to state that their attention having been directed to the publication elsewhere, without permission, by Mr. Edgar Chance of remarks he made at the November (1924) meeting, together with republication *in extenso* of Mr. Bunyard's communication, published in Bull. B.O.C. xlv. pp. 12–14, they have pointed out to Mr. Chance that this action was entirely out of order.

The Committee also desire to make it clear, as there appears to be some misconception in the matter, that, with regard to the footnote on p. 40 (vol. xlv.), their appointment of a Committee to obtain, if possible, direct evidence of the method of deposition of the egg by the Cuckoo must not be taken to imply that they subscribed to Mr. Chance's remarks or that they had any intention of discrediting Mr. Bunyard's account of what he had observed. Their sole desire was to assist in obtaining direct evidence of the method of deposition, by the examination, if possible, of a Cuckoo about to lay.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, May 13th, 1925, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested **to give notice beforehand** to the Editor, Dr. Percy R. Lowe, at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands **not later than at the meeting** MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.* George C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

11 MAY 1925 PURCHASED BRITISH MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY ZOOLOGY

Bird Room

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

17 JUN 1925 PURCHASED

No. CCXCVII.

The two-hundred-and-ninety-third Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, May 13th, 1925.

Chairman: W. L. Sclater.

Members present:—H. G. Alexander; E. Shore Baily; E. C. Stuart Baker; F. J. F. Barrington; Count Bobrinskoy; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; Col. Stephenson R. Clarke; Lt.-Col. A. Delmé-Ratcliffe; Lt.-Col. H. Delmé-Ratcliffe; Major S. S. Flower; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; The Hon. Masauji Hachisuka; Rev. J. R. Hale; L. M. Jopling; N. B. Kinnear; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Editor*); N. S. Lucas; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; P. H. Manson-Bahr; Mrs. A. Meinertzhagen; C. Oldham; H. L. Popham; R. H. Read; Lord Rothschild; D. Seth-Smith; H. Stevens; Capt. S. Stokes; Prince Taka-Tsukasa; G. de H. Vaizey; J. Sladen Wing; W. H. Workman.

Guests:—Lt.-Col. E. H. Hill; A. F. Thorpe; R. B. Vaizey.

On behalf of Mons. Jean Delacour, Mr. W. L. Sclater exhibited some shells of the eggs of *Hierophasis edwardsi* (Oust.).

According to Mons. Delacour's account, one of the three hens imported from Quangtsi (Annam) in June 1924 began to lay on March 23rd. In twelve days, six eggs were laid. They were put under a hen, and all hatched on the 23rd day (April 25th), which is peculiar, as *Hierophasis swinhoii*, it nearest ally, has an incubation-period of twenty-five days, the usual period in the Kalij (*Gennæus*) group.

The young Edwards's Pheasants are quite different to those of Swinhoe's, being much more heavily marked on a lighter ground-colour. The eggs are very similar to those of *H. swinhoii*, but only half the size. They are light brownish pink, with minute white dots.

After an interval of eight days, the hen laid another clutch of six eggs. These are the first eggs and chicks known.

M. Delacour's female, *Hierophasis imperialis*, has also begun to lay ; the eggs are similar to the above, but larger, although they are smaller than eggs of *H. swinhoii*. Another hen, *H. edwardsi*, began to lay on April 25th.

Turdus musicus coburni in Ross-shire.

Mrs. Meinertzhagen exhibited some Redwings, and made the following remarks :—

Members will remember that, at the last meeting of the B. O. C., Dr. Ticehurst exhibited some Redwings from Iceland, and pointed out that this race, named by Dr. Sharpe, in the 'Bulletin of the B. O. C.' vol. xii. p. 28, *Turdus coburni*, appeared worthy of recognition, but not on the characters given by Dr. Sharpe. Dr. Ticehurst pointed out that this race was darker olive on the upper parts and more washed with olive on the breast and flanks than Swedish specimens, and was also larger, the wing-measurements of seven males from Sweden running from 116–120 mm., as compared with 121–128 mm. (once 120·5 mm.) of sixteen Iceland males.

On looking at our series of Redwings on my return home, I found a bird identical with the Iceland Redwings exhibited, and was able next day to compare this specimen with Dr. Ticehurst's specimens, with which it agrees perfectly. It is a male, with a wing-measurement of 125 mm., and was shot by my husband in a birch valley in the east of Ross-shire, on the 25th of October, 1924.

Mr. H. G. Alexander gave the following account of the present situation in regard to the preservation of Dungeness as a Bird-Reserve :—

Members of the B. O. C. may have seen a notice in 'The Times' of the proposed sale of Dungeness. The Committee of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has been investigating the position, and the sale has been temporarily withdrawn. They now ask for the cooperation of the B. O. U. and B. O. C., as well as the Zoological Society and the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves, in a committee that could raise funds, if the R. S. P. B. can get an option to purchase the land. It is understood that the sum asked for is likely to be £5500 (£5 an acre), but an annual income of about £140 could be obtained by letting the grazing-rights, &c.

The piece of land in question includes the whole stretch from Greatstone Sandhills, on the north, to what is known locally as No. 1 Coastguard Station, to the south, less than a mile from Dungeness Lighthouse, a coast-line of some three miles. The maximum breadth of the land for sale is nearly one and a half miles from east to west. It is all shingle except for some patches of marshy pasture on the north-east side, near the New Romney branch of the Southern Railway.

Ornithologically, the main interest of this piece of land is that it contains the whole of the one well-established nesting-colony in this country of the Kentish Plover. From time to time single pairs or very small numbers of this bird have nested on the shingle to the west of Dungeness—on the part belonging to the Southern Railway, the part belonging to

the War Office, and even further west. It is possible that if they were driven from their present territory by building operations they would move further west, but this is a possibility on which it would be unsafe to rely.

Apart from the Kentish Plovers, comparatively few birds nest on this stretch of shingle: Ringed Plovers and Common and Little Terns nest in some numbers, while two or three pairs of Stone-Curlews nest annually. Common Gulls have nested once or twice in recent years, and on the edge of the marsh there are a few Redshanks and Yellow Wagtails.

If the land were acquired as a Nature-Reserve, there is one possibility of development which is worth mentioning. For many years past the South-Eastern Railway has "quarried" part of the shingle near Dungeness for blue flints that are saleable in the potteries. This is unpopular among the local inhabitants, as the region thus quarried is swampy, and in winter usually flooded, and the children have to get to school across it. It is a dumping-ground for old tins, etc., and is not beautiful. But it is not unpopular with the birds. Black Redstarts flit about among the rusty tins in autumn and spring; Snow-Buntings come in the winter, and before the war one bit was grown over with willow-bushes, where I have seen Icterine Warblers and Firecrests, besides other small birds of passage. These bushes were cut for firewood during the war. Most of this ground is near the fishermen's houses, but the remoter part is at present the breeding-place for Lapwings, Redshank, and Snipe.

It might be worth while from a commercial point of view to do some similar quarrying near the New Romney railway line, where already there is good breeding-ground for Redshanks, and where springs of fresh water come out of the shingle and flow across the marsh. This marshy ground might thus be made four or five times as extensive, and if to the present rows of gorse, blackthorn, and bramble were added some willows, reeds, etc., the region would almost certainly bring Reed- and Sedge-Warblers, Snipe, and Water-Rails as breeding birds, while such species as Ruffs, Avocets, Black-tailed Godwits, Aquatic and other rare

Warblers, Garganey and other Ducks, and one or two species of Harrier would, at any rate, occur from time to time as passing migrants, and one or more of them might conceivably some time stay to breed. This may seem a ridiculous flight of fancy, but it is to be remembered that all these birds are fairly frequent visitors to that corner of England on migration, and that there is no more inherent impossibility in their establishing a breeding colony, given a suitable site and adequate protection, than there was in the Bittern re-establishing itself in Norfolk, or the Common Gull establishing a colony on Dungeness Beach.

Two or three other considerations seem to deserve reference. First, the fate of this portion of Dungeness is bound to have some influence on the whole stretch of shingle, including the Hoppen Pits and some of the other parts to the west of the point, which are admittedly, in some respects, more interesting and more hopeful than the part that is under consideration.

Secondly, Dungeness is of importance botanically and entomologically, as well as ornithologically. Indeed, I think one may claim that it is a place to which the much-abused word "unique" really applies. I know of no other place where the peculiar influence of the tides, combined with the proximity in both directions of high chalk cliffs, has brought together such a mass of undiluted shingle. The extent of flat marsh separating this great shingle flat in all directions from the mainland, the depth of the channel immediately outside Dungeness, the expanse of sandy flats uncovered at low tide towards Littlestone, and also some miles to the west, add to the interest and tend to emphasise the peculiarities of the natural life of this strange place.

There are two local sayings : one, that Romney Marsh is the fifth quarter of the globe, and the other that Dungeness is the last place God made and that He forgot to finish it. These two sayings give a vivid impression of the appeal and interest of the region. To British naturalists, too, the proximity to the Continent adds greatly to the interest of Dungeness. No systematic study of Dungeness ornithology

has yet been carried out by a competent ornithologist, but the observations of the R. S. P. B. watchers and of occasional visitors show that its possibilities are almost unlimited. These general considerations may serve to show that the proposal to acquire a large area of Dungeness as a national Nature-Reserve is not solely due to the presence of the Kentish Plover.

Nevertheless, to British ornithologists that is the outstanding and all-important fact. The organised protection of the beach was first undertaken by the R. S. P. B. over twenty years ago. Good work has been done during all that time, but the position of the Kentish Plover continued to be precarious until about three years ago. It was impossible for the protection to be satisfactorily done by one man alone, who was not paid to give his whole time to the work. Now, however, two men are employed, and one or other is on the watch the whole time. The result has been most encouraging. If the ground can be acquired and held by the National Trust, this watching will be continued.

I hope members of the B. O. C. will support this scheme, if the R. S. P. B. obtains the necessary option to purchase.

In the discussion which followed it was explained that the B. O. U. Committee had appointed Mr. W. L. Sclater to serve on the proposed Joint Committee, and that a general appeal to members of the B. O. U. for promises of support would be issued. Dr. G. C. Low was then chosen by those present to represent the B. O. C.

Mr. A. L. Butler exhibited a nest of *Nyctibius griseus griseus* (Gm.), obtained in Trinidad by Mr. Alec Muir in April 1924. The "nest," in which a young bird had been reared, consisted only of a hollow formed by the rotting out of the soft pith at the summit of a broken-off sapling of the Bread-fruit tree, and only just large enough to contain the single egg. To illustrate the ball-and-socket fit of the egg in the cavity an egg of a *Lyncornis*, of almost exactly the size of that of the *Nyctibius*, was shown in the nest. Dropping into the hollow just beyond its greatest diameter

the egg could be revolved with the fingers, but could not be lifted out by them.

While an egg of this species measures 41·5 × 30·5 mm., the cavity selected measured just 41·5 × 32 mm., the stump itself being only 59 × 56·5 mm. across the broken top.

The bird incubates in a perfectly erect position, with its head and neck stretched stiffly upwards, and its tail pressed to the side of the stump, of which the bird appears to form a part.

The bird ordinarily rests during the day in the same attitude and on the top of a similar stump, whether incubating an egg or not.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker made the following remarks on the Indian genus *Sturnopastor* :—

The species of Starling which has long been known as *Sturnopastor contra* Linn. cannot, unfortunately, retain this name, as Linnæus on the same page, but in an earlier line, had already named it *Sturnus capensis*. The species must therefore become *Sturnopastor capensis* Linn., and *S. contra* becomes a pure synonym.

There appear to be four well-marked races of this bird, of which the following key gives the differences :—

A. Forehead not streaked with white.
  a. Darker ..... *S. c. capensis* Linn.
  b. Lighter ..... *S. c. dehræ*.
B. Forehead streaked with white.
  c. Back brown, distinctly paler than crown ..... *S. c. superciliaris* Blyth.
  d. Back blackish and not contrasting with crown ..... *S. c. floweri* Sharpe.

Of these, *S. c. dehræ* is now described for the first time.

Sturnopastor capensis dehræ, subsp. nov.

Similar to *S. c. capensis*, but much paler and less richly coloured.

Measurements and colours of soft parts as in *S. c. capensis*.

Distribution. South India, east of a line drawn from

Umballa to Hyderabad in the Deccan, and Masulipatam as far east as Western Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, but not into Eastern Bengal or Assam.

Type. In the British Museum. ♀, Dehra Dun, 20. xii. 1870 (*G. King*). Hume Coll. Reg. No. 87.7.1.146.

Type-locality. Dehra Dun.

Correction.

Passer montanus tibetanus Stuart Baker, described in the Bull. B. O. C. xlv. p. 92, 1924, becomes a synonym of *P. m. obscuratus* (Jacobi, Abh. Ber. Mus. Tier. Dresden, xvi. 1923, p. 32 : Szechuen). Mr. F. Ludlow has recently sent to the British Museum a series of skins, and these suffice to show that the South Tibetan bird cannot be distinguished from that of North-East Tibet and Szechuen.

Mr. Stuart Baker also exhibited some nests and eggs of the genus *Hemiprocne* and *Batrachostomus*, and pointed out that these nests were interesting in connection with Mr. Butler's exhibit of the remarkable nest of the Nightjar. The Tree-Swifts, like the Nightjar, deposit their eggs in a receptacle only just large enough to hold the egg or the young one when first hatched. These nests, made of inspissated saliva, sometimes almost pure and sometimes much mixed with tiny scraps of bark or feathers, are attached to the sides of branches of trees, often at a great height. The parent bird, when brooding or laying, perches crossways on the branch, so that the vent and posterior abdomen covers nest or young. Only a single egg is laid by any species of this genus, and those shown include *H. coronata*, *H. comata*, and *H. longipennis*. The eggs when laid are a very pale bluish grey, but soon lose the clear tint and become a yellow-grey.

The nests of the Frogmouths shown are those of *B. moniliger* and *B. hodgsoni*. The former always lays one egg, the latter always two, and it will be noticed that, although the birds are much the same in size, the egg of the former is very much larger than that of the latter. The nest is

made entirely of breast-down from the birds themselves, and is decorated externally with scraps of down, spiders' webs, etc., to assimilate it to the branch, on the upper surface of which it is placed. In brooding, as in perching, the Frogmouths sit lengthways on the horizontal branches they select for the purpose.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear sent the following descriptions of new birds :—

Tephrodornis gularis latouchei, subsp. nov.

Similar to *T. gularis hainanus* Ogilvie-Grant, from Hainan, but larger. In the male the upper parts are the same shade as in *T. g. hainanus*, but the rufous wash on the breast is absent below ; while in the female the whole of the upper side is darker and of a richer colour.

Measurements :—

T. g. latouchei, 5 ♂ ♂, wings 121–122; 9 ♀ ♀, 116–124 mm.

T. g. hainanus, 6 ♂ ♂, wings 116–119; 3 ♀ ♀, 113–119 mm.

Type in the British Museum. No. 1905.12.24.368, ♂, Ah Ch'ung, Fohkien, 2 Mar., 1900, presented by C. B. Rickett, Esq.

Distribution. Fohkien and Tonkin.

Pyrotrogon erythrocephalus intermedius, subsp. nov.

Intermediate in size between *P. e. hainanus* Ogilvie-Grant and *P. e. yamakanensis* Rickett from Fohkien and West-Central Yunnan. The colour of the underside in the male is scarlet instead of pinkish carmine as in these two forms ; while the female is a darker brown above, and the abdomen and under tail-coverts paler and suffused with yellowish.

Measurements :—

T. e. hainanus,	7	specimens ;	wing 139–143 mm.
T. e. yamakanensis,	17	„	„ 154–164 „
T. e. intermedius,	3	„	„ 145–146 „

Type in the British Museum. No. 36, ♂, Bao Ha, Tonkin, 15 Nov., 1923, collected by H. Stevens and presented by the Trustees of the Godman-Salvin Fund and Percy Sladen Trust.

Distribution. Tonkin. Three specimens examined.

Dr. Percy Lowe communicated the description of a new subspecies of *Puffinus* from the Fiji Islands, which he proposed to call

Puffinus pacificus whitneyi.

Similar to *Puffinus pacificus pacificus* from the Kermadecs, but with shorter toes and wings.

Three males and three females, all breeding, examined.

Colour of feet in the fresh state whitish, with outer toe blackish brown.

Type. in the British Museum. ♂, Kandavu Island, Fiji, 9 Nov., 1924 (*R. H. Beck,* coll. Whitney South Sea Exped.). Reg. No. 1925.5.13.1.

Bill (expd. culm.) 39 mm. (average for males 39·5); mid-toe with claw 55 mm. (average for males 55); tarso-metatarsus 47 mm.; wing 294 mm.

Named in honour of Mr. H. P. Whitney.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following nomenclatorial notes, viz.:—

Turdus ruficeps Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. 1876, p. 43, February, will replace *Merula bicolor* Layard, Ibis, 1876, April.

Lamprolia [*victoriæ*] *klinesmithi* Ramsay, ib., p. 68, 1876, February, will replace *Lamprolia minor* Layard, Ibis, 1876, p. 155, April.

Xanthotis chrysotis Lesson, March 22nd, 1828, will replace *Xanthotis flaviventer* id., June 1828.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club, the last for the Session, will be held on Wednesday, June 10th, 1925, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to **give notice beforehand** to the Editor, Dr. Percy R. Lowe, at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands **not later than at the meeting** MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

W. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* Percy R. Lowe, *Editor.* George C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

17 JUN 1925 PURCHASED

Bird Room.

11 AUG 1925
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCXCVIII.

The two-hundred-and-ninety-fourth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, June 10th, 1925.

Chairman: Lord Rothschild.

Members present:—E. Shore Baily; E. C. Stuart Baker; F. J. F. Barrington; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; N. Coltart; Major S. S. Flower; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); C. W. Mackworth-Praed; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; C. B. Rickett; D. Seth-Smith; Major A. G. L. Sladen; H. Kirke Swann; Prince Taka-Tsukasa; B. W. Tucker.

Guests:—General R. M. Betham; C. E. Hellmayr; C. B. Horsbrugh; G. D. Smooker; Colonel C. Thornhill; A. R. Wesley.

Mr. H. Kirke Swann exhibited an example of the Tawny Eagle (*Aquila rapax culleni*) from Rumania, and made the following remarks :—

The existence of a form of Tawny Eagle in the Dobrogea was first made known in a communication from Dr. W. H. Cullen, of Constanza, printed in 'The Ibis' for 1867, p. 247, where he stated that it was a permanent resident near Constanza and that he had obtained birds and eggs there. Later, two half-fledged birds were brought to him, and he sent one in 1868 to the Antwerp Zoological Gardens, where it lived a number of years and was described and figured by Bree ('Birds of Europe,' ed. 2, i. p. 89, 1875) under the name of *Aquila culleni*. Later it was again figured by Dresser ('Birds of Europe,' v. pl. 341, 1880), but from that time it seems to have been overlooked or confounded with *Aquila clanga* or *Aquila nipalensis orientalis*, and I know of no specimen existing in collections.

During the recent expedition which J. H. McNeile and I made to the Dobrogea, one of the birds I obtained was the fine old male now shown, which is of importance since it establishes this Eagle as an addition to the European avifauna. It was shot by a hunter at the village of Agighiol on an estuary of the Razim Lake, a land-locked bay on the Black Sea, on April 15, the day before we reached Tulcea, and brought to Dr. A. Rettig of that town, who made a skin of it for me, as I recognized the interest of the specimen. Rettig knew of the existence of *A. rapax* in the Dobrogea, but he thought this bird might be *A. clanga*. The village of Agighiol is situated in open cultivated country, but not far from the forest-region of Babadag.

The Rumanian bird has (when accepted at all) generally been referred to the North African race, *A. rapax belisarius* ; but, after carefully comparing this bird with the four birds at Tring, I find it structurally different, and, having regard to the great distance by which it is separated from the North African race, this is not surprising. I consider

therefore the Rumanian bird must form a separate race, for which Bree's name must stand :—

Aquila rapax culleni Bree, Bds. Europe, ed. 2, i. p. 89, and pl. (1875) [Constanza, Dobrogea].

Hab. Black Sea coast of the Dobrogea, Rumania.

The male bird shown is rather larger than *A. rapax belisarius* and apparently rather darker above and below, although it is in the brown plumage of the very old bird; while the male bird at Tring is not in the oldest plumage, for it still shows some ochraceous colour on the underparts. Of the three females at Tring, one is quite immature in the albescent plumage, one in the intermediate or more tawny plumage, and one approaching the oldest plumage.

The principal points in which *A. r. culleni* differs from *A. r. belisarius* are the smaller and less high culmen, the shorter claws, and the longer tarsus.

The comparative measurements are :—

	A. r. culleni, ♂.	*A. r. belisarius*, ♂.	*A. r. belisarius*, ♀.
	mm.	mm.	mm.
Length of wing (by flexible rule).	525	512	540–555
Length of tail.....	255	240	270
Length of culmen (by dividers)	36	38·5	40·5–45
Height of culmen	19	21	21
Height of bill	24	29	27–29
Length of tarsus	97	91	93
Length of outer claw.....	19	21·5	22–24
Length of inner claw.....	29	31·5	32–34·5
Length of middle claw	25	27	27–30
Length of hind claw	29·5	32·5	35–37

Mr. A. L. Butler exhibited a selection of six specimens of the remarkable Humming-bird, *Loddigesia mirabilis*, known only from a very restricted area in North Peru, and still very scarce in collections.

Four adult males, a female, and an immature male were shown, all collected by Mr. O. T. Baron in October 1895 at San Pedro, on the road from Cajamarca to Chachapoyas.

Mr. Butler was aware that a beautiful series of this bird had been exhibited by Lord Rothschild at a meeting of the Club as long ago as June 1896, but he did not know whether the attitude assumed by the male in displaying before the female had been mentioned on that occasion. It had been briefly described by Mr. Baron in the 'Novitates Zoologicæ' for 1897. One of the birds now shown had been mounted by that collector to illustrate the display of the male, and Mr. Butler thought this was the only specimen that had been so prepared.

Ordinarily, when the bird is at rest with the tail fully closed, the singular wire-like curved outer rectrices, each bearing a terminal spatule or disc an inch in diameter, cross each other close to the tail-root and cross again at about half their length. In the act of display they are spread apart until their bases are exactly opposite to each other and at right angles to the body, this action, and the semicircular curve of the shafts, projecting the flag-like spatules above and in front of the bird's head. The spatules are brought forward in this manner, either when the bird is sitting on a twig, in which case the wings are spread and raised at the same time, or when the bird is hovering in the air close to the female. It is noteworthy that Gould (Mon. Trochilidæ, vol. iii. letterpress to pl. 161) had suggested the possibility of this attitude after examining the only specimen known during his life-time.

The muscular control of these feathers possessed by the bird must be very complete, as Mr. Baron observed that the spatules were frequently flipped together so as to produce a sharp clicking sound. In the young male exhibited, one of the long disc-bearing feathers was fully developed, while the corresponding feather of the immature plumage was not yet shed. Mr. Butler stated that he had seen several young males in a similar condition, but that in the moult of adult males the replacing of these feathers appeared to be symmetrical, specimens obtained in July having both discs fully expanded and just clear of the tail-root.

Concluding with some remarks on the history of this bird, Mr. Butler said that the type-specimen, sent to Mr. George Loddiges by his plant-collector Matthews in 1835 (after which the species was not obtained again until its rediscovery by Messrs. Stolzmann and Jelski in 1879), was still in perfect preservation, with the whole of the Loddiges collection, which contained several Humming-bird types, in the possession of the collector's grandson, Mr. G. B. Loddiges, at Barnes, S.W. Wolf's beautiful plate of the bird in Gray's 'Genera of Birds' was an exact representation of this specimen as mounted in flight by Mr. Loddiges, even to the yellow eyes which had been incorrectly inserted in it, and which somewhat marred this otherwise perfect illustration.

Lord Rothschild remarked that Mr. Butler was in error in believing the specimen exhibited to be the only one mounted in the attitude of display. Mr. Baron had mounted three of his specimens in a similar manner, and one of the other two was now in the Tring Museum.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited a number of *fully-ripened* oak-galls which had been attacked by the Green Woodpecker, *Picus viridis virescens*, and made the following remarks:—

While resting on a Surrey common on May 16th, I saw a Green Woodpecker fly towards a small oak-tree with something in its beak, one or two sharp movements with the head were made and the object dropped to the ground. On inspection I found half an oak-gall tightly wedged in the apex of a pointed hole, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep, obviously made by the Woodpecker.

A quantity of these attacked galls were laying at the base of the tree, some of which I exhibit; it will be seen in most cases that these have been split in half.

In some instances the two halves are held together by the stem, which forms a natural hinge. On closing the two halves it is possible to see that one blow was sufficient, in others two were required to split the galls, other specimens

show that the attack was not always successful, these having been apparently torn open from various angles until the centre was reached and the weevil secured. As far as I am aware, this is a new habit of the Green Woodpecker—or, at least, I have not previously observed it.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain pointed out that the galls exhibited were not caused by a Weevil, as had been suggested by the exhibitor, but were those of a well-known Phytophagous Hymenopteron, *Cynips kollari* Htg. The habit of fixing these galls in fissures of bark or holes and splitting them to get at the larva had also been previously recorded of *Dryobates major anglicus*.

Mr. C. Oldham stated that he had seen *Dryobates minor comminutus* attacking the galls *in situ*, for the same purpose.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following nomenclatorial notes, viz. :—

Broderipus chinensis rileyi, nom. nov. for *Oriolus meridionalis* Hartert, 1896, *not* Brehm, Isis, 1845, col. 332.

Manucorax, gen. nov., differs from *Manucodia* of authors in lacking the little crest of feathers on the forehead. It also has a different-shaped tail. Type, *Phonygama ater* Lesson.

Chalygama, gen. nov., differs from *Phonygammus* L. & G. in having a squarish tail and the eye-tufts more erect. Type, *Phonygama hunsteini* Sharpe.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, October 14th, 1925, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine might kindly inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This will also be held at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT on Wednesday, October 14th, 1925, at 5.45 p.m. An Agenda and Balance Sheet will be issued in September.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Dr. Percy R. Lowe, at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands not later than at the meeting MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

Rothschild,	Percy R. Lowe,	George C. Low,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

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